

Assembly Committee on Education
March 23, 2017

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Testimony
On LRB 2204/P1

Thank you to Chairperson Thiesfeldt and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of LRB 2204/P1. My name is Jennifer Kammerud and I am a policy advisor in the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). This bill would eliminate the statutory requirement for the DPI to award alternative grants and the associated administrative rule.

The original alternative education grant program was designed to provide grants to school districts and consortia of school districts to support alternative education programs. It was created in the 1999-01 biennial budget and the first grants were awarded in 2001. Funding, however, behind this program was eliminated in 2011.

The associated rule chapter, PI 44, set forth the criteria and procedures for awarding alternative education program grants. Under the rule alternative education programs were defined, grants were to be provided on a five-year basis, and were to be distributed equally throughout the state and to districts of varying size.

With the elimination of funding there is no need for the corresponding statutory language or its affiliated rule.