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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 36TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee On Education
AB 477- Supplemental Aid for School Districts
September 7, 2017

Fellow Committee Members - AB 477, is before us today as a result of the committee's review of Chapter PI 10, relating to Supplemental Aid for School Districts with a Large Area.

Simply put, the bill repeals the current administrative rule that governs the criteria and procedures for awarding supplemental aid grants and instead incorporates the rule into statute.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the statutory language for calculating aid eligibility by changing the term "enrollment" to "membership". This is important for consistency in determining aid eligibility (like that of other aid-related programs) because the term "enrollment" isn't defined in current statute, but "membership" is. This change could potentially capture other categories of pupils, resulting in greater eligibility.

All of us are coauthors of the bill so I would appreciate your continued support for the bill.

**Assembly Committee on Education
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**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Testimony in support of AB 477**

Thank you Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit brief comments in support of Assembly Bill 477. The Department thanks the Committee for engaging in several discussions with the Department during their red tape review. AB 477 is a product of that discussion and we appreciate the committee continuing its work on this legislation.

AB 477 effectively cleans up Administrative Code by eliminating unnecessary regulations on how supplemental aid is calculated, since it is already prescribed in statute and only one school district receives the aid.

In changing the language used to determine eligibility for receiving supplemental aid from enrollment to membership, other categories of pupils that meet the statutory definition of "membership" but do not meet the current rule definition for "enrollment" would be captured in calculating total eligibility for receiving supplemental aid. It is possible that aid eligibility under the program may increase as a result of the bill.

The Department would like to thank the author and the Legislative Reference Bureau for their assistance in drafting this bill.