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Testimony in Support of Assembly 53 and 54

Assembly Committee on Education

April 4, 2019

Good morning Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the Assembly Committee on Education, thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of Assembly Bills 53 and 54.

Before you today are two bills that were developed out of several meetings with a workgroup on school safety. Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to join the group to discuss how all aspects of society can work together to improve the safety of our children in our schools. This initiative is a great example of how schools, law enforcement, and government can come together, break down silos, and accomplish our shared goals.

Assembly Bill 53 makes a change to statute that will allow school districts to add the name of a pupil's parent or guardian to the list of categories that they can include in their directory data. Directory data is a list of information that a school may disclose, in a timely manner compared to other mechanisms, as long as certain notification procedures are followed. The current list of categories that a school can include in their list is: *a pupil's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees and awards received and the name of the school most recently previously attended by the pupil.* AB 53 adds a pupil's parent or guardian to that list, giving local school districts the option to include it in their set of directory data.

Assembly Bill 54 makes a simple change to current law that will allow a person that has direct charge of a school to give a warning to students before a fire, tornado, or school safety drill, if it is in the best interest of the student. After meeting with the workgroup, an issue was raised that in some situations it would be in the best interest of students if they were allowed to warn them about an upcoming drill. A warning would be especially useful in situations for students with disabilities.

Joining me today is Amy Nehls, Dodge County Emergency Management, Mike Reissmann, Dodge County Detective, and Jason Hraban, Waupun School Resource Officer. The three of them are here to speak to the basis of these proposals and why the workgroup brought these suggestions forward.

At this time, I would be happy to take any questions you might have.