



# DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Bill Prohibiting Student Strip Searches Heads to Governor**

**Madison, WI** – This week, Assembly Bill 108, which prohibits strip searches of students conducted by school personnel, was passed by the State Assembly. State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay) introduced the legislation in response to an incident at the Suring School District involving six teenage girls being ordered to strip down to their underwear by a school official. The search was allegedly conducted to find a nicotine vape pen.

Under current law, strip searching a student is a Class B misdemeanor. However, Wisconsin’s definition of “strip search” is a search that would expose a student’s private areas. Because of this limited definition, the school official who ordered the young girls at Suring to disrobe down to their underwear could not be charged with this offense. AB 108 extends the definition of “strip search” to include searches that would require a student to strip down to their underwear, making this a chargeable offense moving forward.

“The incident that occurred at Suring revealed a statutory loophole that needs to be closed in order to protect our students from such humiliating and intrusive searches. We expect that our kids are being treated with dignity and basic privacy when at school—this bill helps to ensure that,” said Rep. Steffen.

The proposal has received bipartisan support and passed the State Senate earlier this session. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at [Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov).

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