



WILLIAM PENTERMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 37TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 237-9137
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0037
Rep.Penterman@legis.wisconsin.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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CONTACT: REP. WILLIAM PENTERMAN
(608) 237-9137

Governor Evers Deals Devastating Blow to K-12 Education *Vetoes Rep. Penterman's Teacher Apprenticeship Legislation*

Madison, WI – Last Friday, Governor Evers dealt a devastating blow to education reform by vetoing [Senate Bill \(SB\) 917](#), also known as the teacher apprenticeship bill, authored by Representative Penterman. This bill aimed to equip every four-year college in Wisconsin with a powerful tool to address the pressing teacher shortage.

Representative Penterman expressed profound disappointment, stating, "Instead of working together and doing the right thing for our students, educators, communities, and state, the governor callously vetoed bipartisan legislation that echoed successful teacher apprenticeship models in numerous states. Introducing teacher apprenticeships in Wisconsin would not just attract more dedicated educators to the profession; it would also offer aspiring teachers the opportunity to earn while they learn as student teachers."

Adding insult to injury, Governor Evers chose to bury his action by issuing the veto on Good Friday, a sacred day of reflection for millions of Wisconsinites. Representative Penterman condemned this attempt to evade public scrutiny, asserting, "Vetoing sound legislation while hiding behind a holiday is a disgrace."

The bill created a groundbreaking solution: the implementation of teacher apprenticeships under the "2+2" model. This highly effective approach integrates two years of teaching preparation coursework with two years of hands-on student teaching. By providing aspiring educators with real-world classroom experiences, this model ensures they are thoroughly prepared for the dynamic challenges of teaching. Not only does it enhance the quality of education, but it also enriches the overall learning experience for students, leading to improved academic outcomes.

Governor Evers himself expressed support for such innovative concepts during his State of the State address earlier this year, coincidentally on the same day the bill underwent a public hearing in the State Senate. Yet, when given the opportunity to act, he chose partisan politics over progress. If Governor Evers genuinely cared about addressing the teacher shortage crisis, he would have signed the bill, allowing his departments and universities to collaborate on crafting the necessary administrative rules. Instead, he quietly vetoed the bill, betraying the trust of educators, students, and communities across the state.

"This legislation has been embraced by both red and blue states alike. By rejecting proven strategies to attract more teachers to the profession, the governor has demonstrated a glaring lack of commitment to addressing our state's workforce shortages."

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