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## Rep. Born Votes for Historic Investment in K-12 Education, Local Government

JFC passes \$1 billion increase for public schools

**Madison** – Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) voted in favor of increasing funding for public education by over \$1 billion, along with supporting school choice programs, during action taken by the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC). In addition, the Committee took action on an amended version of Assembly Bill (AB) 45, which will provide a historic increase in funding for local governments throughout the state.

"Today, JFC made important investments in our public schools," Rep. Born said after the vote. "We know that educating our students is one of the most critical responsibilities of our state and the funds we provided will give our teachers the tools they need to help our students succeed."

Altogether, the K-12 education plan:

- Increases funding for public schools by \$975 per student over the biennium
- Provides \$50 million for new literacy initiatives
- Funds student mental health program with an increase of \$30M over the biennium
- Meets one-third of special education costs, funded with nearly \$100M in new money
- Increases the low-revenue ceiling for public schools by \$1,000 per student
- Raises the voucher amount per student, closing the gap between aid per child for public school students and choice and charter school students

In addition to support for K-12 education, the committee approved legislation to increase funding for local governments throughout the state. These funds will ensure all communities receive at least a 20% increase in state aid, to be used for key services for Wisconsin residents.

"Our action today is another step towards fulfilling the agreement reached between Legislative Republicans and Governor Evers last week, to strengthen core government services like public education, fire and EMS services, public works, transportation, etc.," Rep. Born said. "I'm proud of the work that has gone into making sure our communities have the resources needed to support our residents."

Funding increases approved by JFC become part of the legislative budget, which needs to be approved by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor to become state law.

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