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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 39TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Born Votes for Task Force Bills on Truancy, Childhood Obesity

Assembly Passes Legislative Packages to Reduce Truancy and Combat Childhood Obesity

Madison – Today, Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) voted in favor of two legislative packages stemming from the Speaker’s Task Forces on Truancy and Childhood Obesity. Bills from the Speaker’s Task Force on Truancy work to better identify truancy and reduce instances of it. The package of legislation on childhood obesity aims to improve the health of children in our state.

“Between 2017 and 2021, chronic absenteeism increased by 30% in our state,” Rep. Born said. “This is a significant issue that hurts our kids’ academic performance. Our package of bills work to decrease truancy and help improve outcomes for students in our state.”

The legislation from the Speaker’s Task Force on Truancy would modify notice requirements to parents of habitually truant children; modify definitions related to truancy; prohibit grade promotion based on truancy; create and fund a truancy reduction program and require information related to truancy on the school district and school accountability reports.

“Childhood obesity is a serious problem that impacts 15% of children in our state, making Wisconsin above average in the rate of childhood obesity,” Rep. Born said. “Obesity is linked to serious health complications and these bills are an important first step toward improving the health of kids in our state.”

The package of bills from the Speaker’s Task Force on Childhood Obesity would create a healthy food incentive program for the FoodShare program; create and fund a childhood obesity prevention and management grant program; and implement requirements for minimum number of minutes of physical activity each week during school hours.

Both of these legislative packages now go to the State Senate for consideration.

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