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### **Our Public Schools Deserve a Real Investment**

**Madison** – Today, the Assembly was in session to take up a long list of bills, many of which went through the Education Committee. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) issued the following statement on the passage of these bills:

“Wisconsin students deserve to receive a quality education from our public schools. Taxpayers deserve to know how their taxes are being spent. Assembly Bill (AB) 900 does not get us any closer to these goals. Funding the voucher system through general purpose revenue (GPR) will harm our state and lead to competition for needed funds in rural areas. We must use GPR funds wisely and stop this measure from becoming law.

“Another bill passed today would create a pathway for paraprofessionals to become teachers. While I appreciate the intent of this bill, I do not believe that it will solve the teacher shortage we are seeing statewide. Teachers in my community are also seeing a shortage of paraprofessionals. I fear that this bill would only exacerbate this issue, especially in rural districts. If we want to truly combat the teacher shortage, we need to reinstate teacher benefits. Our educators need collective bargaining rights to advocate for what they deserve.

“I am heartened to see that some good bills were passed today, such as AB 232. This bill directs school boards to provide education on Hmong Americans and Asian Americans. In committee, we heard powerful testimony on the impact this legislation will have on our students. Providing our students with this education creates a more inclusive environment and allows AAPI students to feel belonging in our schools.

“You can count on me to continue to advocate for state investment in public education. Every child deserves to be set up for their version of success.”

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