



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Observing “See You at the Pole,” Rep. Allen releases “Wisconsin Public Schools Religious Liberties Act”

Part of legislative agenda to ensure a free, safe, strong future for Wisconsin youth

Representative Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) today released the first bill in his legislative agenda for 2019-20. The *Wisconsin Public Schools Religious Liberties Act* is aimed at codifying and clarifying the myriad of Supreme Court rulings on the First Amendment’s influence in public schools. It creates no new rights or protections.

“As far as public schools are concerned, religious liberty has become the orphan of the First Amendment; everybody is unsure what to do with it” said Rep. Allen. “Coaches might not realize they can pray with their teams under certain circumstances. Students may answer assignments from a religious worldview without fear of being marked down. Everyone should be able to have clear guidelines on what is permitted in a school setting without having to hire a lawyer.”

The bill clearly shows students, teachers, and staff to what extent their constitutional rights may be exercised. It makes clear that students can wear clothes and jewelry displaying a religious message or symbol, and that they can pray or express their faith at school. Students can organize prayer groups and religious clubs, and express religious beliefs in coursework, artwork, and other assignments without fear of discrimination.

For teachers, the bill clarifies that they are allowed to express religious thoughts in their peer conversations. Teachers may also discuss religious topics in the classroom in a neutral manner for a valid, non-religious educational purposes.

“We’re investing millions into the mental health of our public school students, we’re investing millions in school safety measures” said Rep. Allen. “Spirituality is an element which can contribute to mental health and contribute to greater love within the school community, so it is vital that we make it clear that we do not want the free exercise of faith stripped from our schools.”

Now publicly released, Rep. Allen is seeking legislator input and will be formally circulating the bill for co-sponsorship once the legislature convenes in January.

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*The 97th Assembly District includes portions of the City of Waukesha
and the Towns of Waukesha, Genesee, and Mukwonago.*