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BY:

School Administrators Alliance

Representing the Interests of Wisconsin School Children

TO: Assembly Representatives
FROM: John Forester, Director of Government Relations
DATE: October 27, 2009
RE: Assembly Bill 358 – School Indoor Environmental Quality

The School Administrators Alliance (SAA) supports Assembly Bill 358, relating to school indoor environmental quality.

AB 358 directs the state superintendent of public instruction to establish the Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) in Schools Task Force. This task force will then make recommendations to the DPI for the development of a model IEQ management plan in Wisconsin public and private schools. After development of the model plan, each school district and each private school that participates in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program must implement an IEQ management plan for its school or schools.

AB 358 is the product of more than two years of compromise with the active participation of the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC), the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) and the SAA. This bill is far less prescriptive and mandate-driven than its predecessor bill – 2005 SB 325. We are very pleased that school officials would have significant representation on the IEQ task force created under the bill. SAA members are following this legislation with great interest and they look forward to participating in the process laid out in the bill.

We believe that bringing together IEQ experts, school officials and relevant stakeholder groups to craft a consensus model IEQ plan for Wisconsin school districts and private schools is a common sense approach to protecting the health and safety of Wisconsin school children and staff. To my knowledge, there is no organizational opposition to the bill. What's more, the bill enjoys bipartisan support.

We urge your support of AB 358. If you should have any questions regarding the SAA's support for AB 358, please call me at (608) 242-1370.

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School Administrators

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