



STATE SENATOR  
**Eric Wimberger**  
DISTRICT 2

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Wimberger Statement on Unanimous Decision in *Legislature v. DPI***

### ***Evers Broke Law by Using Partial Veto to Delay \$50 Million for Literacy Reform***

MADISON – Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto) released the following statement after the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling in *Wisconsin State Legislature v. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*, which found that Governor Evers exceeded his authority by illegally partially vetoing the literacy bill passed by legislative Republicans last session:

*“Governor Evers attempted to take the power over the purse away from the Legislature, and the Supreme Court stopped him. He used a literacy program aimed at helping struggling kids as an opportunity to play politics, try to redefine the word ‘appropriation,’ and become both the executive and legislative branches.*

*Today’s unanimous Supreme Court ruling confirms that the Governor’s decision to hold up funds for literacy reform was not only against the law, but needlessly delayed \$50 million of support from reaching our classrooms.”*

Last session, the Legislature passed a sweeping reading reform bill to return Wisconsin’s schools to proven, science-based approaches to literacy education, replacing failing curricula and getting struggling readers the help they need in their classrooms. Studies show that 64% of Wisconsin third graders can’t read at grade level, and 70% of Wisconsin schools use an objectively failing literacy curriculum.

Governor Evers used his veto pen to turn the \$50 million funding these reading reforms into an unaccountable slush fund for the Department of Public Instruction. Instead of funding the bipartisan priority for which the Legislature originally appropriated the \$50 million, the money was tied up in court. The Supreme Court’s ruling today affirms that the Governor’s use of the partial veto to block this \$50 million from reaching Wisconsin classrooms was an illegal action.

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*State Senator Eric Wimberger is an attorney, small business owner, and former Marine Captain. He serves as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance and Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. He represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District, including parts of Brown, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, and Waupaca Counties.*

A media kit for Senator Wimberger can be found [here](#).