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Rep. Considine: We must address student mental health

Posted on Thursday, Feb 6, 2020

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Madison – Today, Representative Considine (D-Baraboo) voted on a bill in the Assembly Committee on Education and listened to citizens in a Public Hearing in that same committee. As a former educator of 29 years, Representative Considine prioritizes education. After Governor Evers' press conference on education, including increasing access to mental health services, investing in rural schools, and increasing services to students with disabilities, Representative Considine released the following statement:

"I am so encouraged to see Governor Evers continue to prioritize our students. Investing in our educators, students, and the brick and mortar schools themselves are crucial to student success," said Rep. Considine.

"I voted against the 2019-2021 Biennial Budget this past year, because I believed we should – and can – do better for our kids. The budget made a lot of great investments in our state, but it didn't go far enough. Our students in rural schools need increased sparsity aid and more mental health resources. I am glad that Governor Evers proposed these investments today.

"According to the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health, Wisconsin ranks 44th in the nation for prevalence of youth mental illness, and we rank as one of the worst states for youth access to mental health care. Governor Evers set a path forward today that expands access to student mental health. Our students need this, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this issue.