



JIM OTT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 23rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0486
District: (262) 240-0808
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0023
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Good morning committee members. Thank you for hearing my testimony on Senate Bill 458. Assembly Bill 555, the Assembly companion, passed the Judiciary Committee on an 8-0 vote and passed the full Assembly on a voice vote.

SB 458 was originally introduced as a law revision bill, to clarify a provision that was placed in the biennial state budget. The intention of the budget provision was to expand the opportunity for home schooled children to attend up to two classes at the K-8 grade level in a public school. Under prior law this opportunity was only afforded to students at the high school level.

Unfortunately, the way in which the provision was written in the budget and incorporated into the statutes left a certain amount of ambiguity and led to the possibility the provision could be misinterpreted. SB 458 makes no substantive change to current law, only clarifies it. This is one of the criteria for a bill to be introduced as a law revision bill. Unfortunately, one member of the Law Revision Committee objected and all Law Revision Bills must be unanimous.

At the public hearings in the Law Revision Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee a representative from DPI testified that the Department is already using the statute as intended, in other words affording home schooled children at the K-8 level the opportunity to attend up to two classes in public schools, and did not object in any way to the budget provision.

I want to reiterate that this bill makes no significant changes to current law, only provides clarity. I would appreciate your support and will be glad to answer any questions.

To: Members, Senate Committee on Education
From: Jennifer Kammerud, Legislative Liaison, DPI JK
Date: January 30, 2014
Re: **2013 Senate Bill 458 - Standards for Admission in a Public School Course by a Home-Based Pupil**

This memo is meant to address changes being proposed in Senate Bill 458 (SB 458) related to standards for admission in a public school course by a home-based pupil.

The department has no overriding concerns with SB 458. The bill appears to clarify that the school board of a district shall determine the minimum standards for admission to a course offered by the school district at each grade in grades Kindergarten through eight.