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## Luther S. Olsen

State Senator  
14th District

### **Senate Bill 598**

### **Testimony of Senator Luther Olsen**

#### **Senate Committee on Education**

I am bringing this bill forward to make a technical correction to last session's Read to Lead bill, which became Act 166. When we were drafting the educator effectiveness portion of the bill, part of our job was to think through who should be allowed to apply to the Department for equivalency.

We had the foresight to separate out 2r charters, which of course manage and pay their own staff, but we mistakenly grouped non-instrumentality charters, who like 2r's hire and pay their own staff, with instrumentality charters, which function like any other school in a school district in terms of hiring and compensating staff. Even though DPI agrees that it makes sense to allow non-instrumentality charters to apply for equivalency, and understand it was our intent is refusing to let these schools apply for equivalency so that they can use their own process to evaluate their staff, they said in order to allow this we need to change the law.

This bill makes the necessary change to ensure that a school like Carmen High School of Technology, one of the top high schools in Wisconsin and a non-instrumentality charter school, can go through the process of applying for equivalency to use their model to evaluate their staff rather than having to use the model selected by the district that authorizes them (in their case, MPS).

**Senate Committee on Education**  
**March 6, 2014**

**Department of Public Instruction**  
**Testimony on 2013 Senate Bill 598**

I want to thank Senator Olsen and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 598 (SB 598). My name is Dr. Sheila Briggs. I am the Assistant State Superintendent at the Department of Public Instruction and am here today to testify for information only.

I am charged at the department with overseeing the implementation of the Educator Effectiveness system for Wisconsin. School districts are required to implement this new system beginning in the fall of 2014. Current law allows for school districts and 2R charters to apply for equivalency to the Department of Public Instruction, if they wish to use an alternative model to measure educator practice. We currently have one consortium of districts that has applied for and been approved to use an alternative model for educator practice. Under current law, non-instrumentality charter schools have been ineligible to apply for equivalency separate from their chartering school districts.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the chartering school district has no supervisory authority over their non-instrumentality charter school teachers and principals, and therefore is not involved in the evaluation of these staff members. This law would allow for any non-instrumentality charter school to make an independent decision from their chartering school district, either to apply for equivalency if their district uses the state model, or to use the state model if their school district applies for equivalency.

The Department of Public Instruction has no concerns with this bill.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to take any questions that the committee might have.