

TO: Members, Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Daniel Henderson, School Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: SB-206 – Maintaining a supply of usable opioid antagonists at a school.

DATE: May 23, 2023

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB-206. The Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) takes no position on SB-206. We do, however, have several concerns.

WCRIS represents more than 10 percent of the state’s K-12 students. We represent over 600 private schools enrolling over 120,000 students in K-12 schools across the state. WCRIS supports measures to keep its students safe but we have questions about how our schools will manage the task of being mandated to carry opioid antagonists.

The following issues must be addressed in order for our schools to comply with SB-206:

- Will there be liability protection for schools that administer the drugs but something goes wrong? What happens if a staff person misdiagnoses an overdose or does not act? **If there is no liability protection WCRIS could not support this bill.**
- **Who will pay for the medication?** The fiscal estimate from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) suggested that opioid antagonists can cost between \$31 to \$100 for two doses. Will the state provide funding for this initiative?
- **How many doses will schools be required to keep?** The bill mentions “an adequate supply.” What is an “adequate supply” for a school? One size does not fit all. Who will be authorized to knowledgeably calculate an “adequate supply?”
- **Medication expires over time.** Will the state provide long-term funding to cover replacing expired medications and the proper disposal of them?

- **Who will train school staff to administer the medication?** Can a principal educate the staff or does the school need to have a licensed medical professional or first responder provide the training? How will the principals be educated? How often will staff need to be trained? Who will cover training expenses?
- **Schools are facing an unprecedented shortage of staff.** Because of this, many staff members have little extra time as they are taking on extra responsibilities. Will there be funds to pay for staff's time?
- **There are some questions of applicability.** Do all schools have to have opioid antagonists agents? It seems unreasonable to require elementary schools to have protection against drug overdosing. This may be more applicable at a high school level.

Thank you for your consideration. Please take time to resolve these issues before advancing SB-206.

Don't hesitate to contact me, or WCRIS Executive Director Sharon Schmeling, if our office can be of additional service.