

to be LRB-6117 and any other educational related matters. Would you be so kind as to let us know what availability the Representative may have over the next few weeks and we would welcome a visit here at our Lindholm Building at 222 Maple Avenue in Waukesha.

Thanks,

Jim



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Como, Joseph Lee** <jcomo@waukesha.k12.wi.us>
Date: Tue, Mar 29, 2022 at 8:21 AM
Subject: Fwd: Feedback on School Libraries
To: James Sebert <jsebert@waukesha.k12.wi.us>, Joseph Koch <jkoch@waukesha.k12.wi.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **McKittrick, Michael** <Michael.McKittrick@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 28, 2022, 3:30 PM
Subject: Feedback on School Libraries
To: jcomo@waukesha.k12.wi.us <jcomo@waukesha.k12.wi.us>

To Joseph Como

My name is Michael, and I work in the office of State Representative Scott Allen. I am writing to you to ask for your feedback on a school issue that a constituent has raised with us.

Currently in Wisconsin statutes (944.21), there are penalties for distributing, exhibiting or playing any obscene material to a person under the age of 18. However, public elementary schools are exempt from this law.

The rationale is laid out in statute 944.21 (8) (a) “The legislature finds that the libraries and educational institutions under par. (b) carry out the essential purpose of making available to all citizens a current, balanced collection of books, reference materials, periodicals, sound recordings and audiovisual materials that reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society. The legislature further finds that it is in the interest of the state to protect the financial resources of libraries and educational institutions from being expended in litigation and to permit these resources to be used to the greatest extent possible for fulfilling the essential purpose of libraries and educational institutions.”

The concern that a constituent raised is that there is no need for an elementary school library to be exempt as there should be no reason for an elementary school library having in its possession any material that could be considered “obscene.” This leaves a potential loophole for children to be exposed to obscene material and for there to be no legal avenue for addressing that.

We are exploring the possibility of removing elementary schools from the exemption, though secondary schools would remain exempt. As part of this exploratory process, we are asking for feedback from school librarians in our district and would also be interested in hearing from you as a school board member.

You can call me at the office Monday through Friday from 8:30am-5pm or reply via e-mail. Please share your support or your concerns about removing elementary schools from this exemption and any questions or thoughts you have on the matter. Thank you for sharing your thoughts so that Rep. Allen can do his job of representing you in the Wisconsin Assembly.

Michael McKittrick

Research Assistant

Rep. Scott Allen, 97th Assembly District