



COSPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representatives Robyn Vining, Christian Phelps, Angelina Cruz, Greta Neubauer, Amaad Rivera-Wagner, Lee Snodgrass, Ryan Spaude, Angela Stroud, Randy Udell, Margaret Arney, Ryan Clancy

Senators Mark Spreitzer, Tim Carpenter, Kristin Dassler-Alfheim, Kelda Roys, Melissa Ratcliff

DATE: May 29, 2025

RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB-1684: Grants for LGBTQIA+ rights training for school counselors and school social workers and making an appropriation

DEADLINE: June 05, 2025 at 5:00pm

This bill is part of the “Equality Agenda” and “Mental Healthcare is Healthcare” package of bills.

Every Wisconsin child deserves access to the mental healthcare they need. Ensuring access to adequate mental healthcare for kids is important both for the well-being of our students, and their academic success. Our students are reporting record-high levels of anxiety and self-harm. Students who struggle with mental health issues are at especially high risk for expulsion, perform lower on academic achievement tests, and have decreased graduation rates. The incidence of youth who are dying by suicide has risen in the last few years around the nation, including in Wisconsin, and especially amongst vulnerable populations. The time to act is now.

According to the Department of Public Instruction’s 2023 [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#), 79% of LGBTQ+ students reported anxiety, and 63% reported depression. The increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation negatively impacts LGBTQIA+ youth, contributing to rising

rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidality. The mere introduction of anti-LGBTQ+ bills causes harm to the mental health of Wisconsin's youth, and we must respond with help for these kids.

LRB-1684 provides grants to school boards to provide training in LGBTQIA+ rights to school counselors and school social workers. This training gives school mental health professionals the tools they need to identify and address the unique issues facing LGBTQIA+ students and will increase the quality of mental healthcare that these students receive in school.

If you would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact my office at **7-9113** or **Rep.Vining@legis.wisconsin.gov** by **Thursday, June 5th, 2025**. Co-sponsors will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions unless otherwise specified.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, the Department of Public Instruction must award grants to school boards to provide training in LGBTQIA+ rights, in a program developed or approved by DPI, to school counselors and school social workers employed by school boards. The bill defines "LGBTQIA+" as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or any other nonheterosexual or noncisgender orientation, identity, or expression.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill