

Representative (Name Here)

(Address Here)

State Capitol

P.O. Box 8952

Madison, WI 53708

Senator (Name Here)

(Address Here)

State Capitol

P.O. Box 8952

Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative NAME and Senator NAME,

I write to urge your bipartisan sponsorship of the New Voices of Wisconsin Act for school-sponsored media, which would guarantee First Amendment rights to student journalists enrolled in high schools and institutions of higher learning. Eight states have passed such legislation, most recently North Dakota with a unanimous vote, and dozens more are considering or have already introduced bills.

The benefits of passing this proposed legislation are many. By introducing it you would help align the operation of student publications with nationally-promoted best practices and 21st century skills; affirm state and district educational goals for innovative, student-driven learning; establish learning environments centered on curiosity, trust, and understanding; and encourage students' civic responsibility through the practice of democratic principles.

In addition to providing Wisconsin students with a structure of journalism education that has been proven to work, the New Voices Act will help districts avoid legal risk, will protect school communities from the divisive and harmful effects of censorship, and maybe most compelling, will do nothing to limit a school's ability to address legitimate concerns or regulate unprotected student expression.

For your convenience I have included the proposed language for the Act as well as a brief statement of support that would assist you in promoting New Voices. You may also find more information at [newvoicesus.com](http://newvoicesus.com).

Finally, as a journalism educator, I would be happy to share my experiences regarding students' free expression rights and to provide further conversation and insight on this very worthy matter. You may reach me at this email address or at my home address. Thank you for your time and thought concerning the New Voices of Wisconsin Act.

Sincerely,

Name

Address