

Statement of Support for a New Voices of Wisconsin Act

I support the passage of a New Voices of Wisconsin Act to restore and preserve student expression at both the secondary and collegiate levels by clarifying that students are responsible for deciding the content of student publications. This support aligns with my beliefs that . . .

Choice, exploration, experimentation, and support form the basis of an effective learning atmosphere;

Ownership develops leadership and motivation and is ultimately the only way for students to practice responsibility and ethical decision-making;

Independence is the foundation of the teaching and practice of journalism;

Encouraging the expression of a wide range of diverse viewpoints builds community and understanding;

Student responsibility fosters the understanding and practice of essential democratic values;

Student media exists primarily as a learning tool for student journalists; and

The recent explosion of digital outlets for publishing speech makes it more, not less, important for schools to give students an outlet within the building to practice using their voices truthfully and responsibly under the guidance of caring experts.

The New Voices of Wisconsin Act is based on proven educational best practices, promotes our rights as citizens, and will provide a lasting benefit to the state of Wisconsin.

(Statement crafted by New Voices of Wisconsin)