



The LEADer

Thursday, July 14, 2022

“News that leads”

@leadwi

LEAD campers visit the Capitol

The Assembly, Senate, and Media tracks split up to experience their State Capitol and learn more about their bills.

By Anna Morken

On Wednesday afternoon Assembly camper Ada Haleen stepped foot in the Wisconsin Capitol building for the first time. She describes the Capitol as, “beautiful” and “elegant.” The detail and thought put into the different paintings and murals around the Capitol impressed her. Many of these works of art have deep meaning. For example, a painting in the Senate chamber shows figures representing different oceans and nations because the Panama Canal was being constructed during the time it was created.

Unlike Haleen, Senate camper Levi Harper has visited the Capitol at least five times. When asked how he would describe our Capitol, Harper replied, “Our capital is the pillar of what it means to live in the United States of

America. It symbolizes our power, our authority, and the magnificence and beauty of democracy.”

Today was my fifth time at our beautiful Capitol. To me, our Capitol building represents the biblical ideas on which our nation was founded. Many pieces of art, such as Lady Justice pointing her finger to God to represent Who justice comes from, demonstrate the truth on which America and Wisconsin are founded.

When the Assembly track arrived at the Capitol, Capitol staff led them on a tour of the building. During the tour they learned the history and significance of the Capitol building. Haleen said she learned that this is the third Capitol building in Wisconsin.

During the Assembly’s tour the Senate participated in a picture scavenger hunt.

Forecast

Today
High of 80° & Sunny



Friday
High of 79° & Showers



In Today’s Paper...

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Assembly Bill Column

Senate Bill Column

VIP Meet & Greet

Public Hearing Recap

Harper shares that one of his favorite parts was visiting the balcony. He said, “It was pretty funny to see how our leader Ben (Terpstra) was pretty scared of heights.” Harper was also amused to learn that a fellow camper Joshua Rush interns at the Capitol. He shared, “It was part of the scavenger hunt to get a picture with a legislator or the aid of a legislator. I think it was pretty funny that Joshua Rush is actually one of those.” At this time the Media track received a tour of WisEye, an organization that covers the sessions that go on in the Capitol. Campers Josiah Scott and Sawyer Curtis enjoyed sitting in chairs pretending to debate seriously while the rest of the team watched on a screen in



LEAD campers visit the Capitol continued...

the next room.

After the tour, the Assembly track began their public hearings. Haleen shared that for the bill her caucus is opposing “it was helpful to learn some of the benefits that (the opposing side) brought to the table and, for ours, opposing things they bring to the table because it’s good to know those.” Today’s hearings helped assemblymen to develop arguments.

Senators also developed and strengthened their arguments after their public hearings. Harper said, “It was really helpful to interview the different lobbyists, just for the insight that they gave us and also just helping prepare us for the questions that are going to need to be addressed when we are on the assembly floor on Friday.”

The members of the Media track attended the Assembly and Senate public hearings. I attended the Jefferson public hearing where Haleen is a part. Since we finished early, Representative William Penterman, who chaired the public hearing, brought us up to the balcony. Unfortunately, even real assemblymen like Penterman don’t always remember their way around the Capitol. Penterman led us downstairs and upstairs and in the wrong direction more than once. At one point, we climbed a stairway just to climb right down another. Finally, we trekked up a winding stairway to a gorgeous view of Madison including a lake. It was definitely worth the adventure.

After the public hearings all campers met at the rotunda for a meet-and-greet with Wisconsin legislators before heading home.

When asked what he learned on Wednesday, Harper replied, “I tend to avoid situations that are going to cause me stress or that I think I might not end up going well. I found out today that it felt good to be under pressure and to answer questions. Just put

yourself out there.” Many campers “put themselves out there” today. Because of their willingness to do something that made them feel a little uncomfortable, they are now better prepared to bring their bills to the floor on Friday.

Lexington committee passes both bills

AB 26 Direct Primary Care and AB 48 Expanding Hate Crime Law pass from their committees to the Senate

By Josiah Scott

Sen. Hava Zodrow, author of AB 26 Direct Primary Care, began yesterday’s hearing by stating the reasons her bill would help the people of Wisconsin in attaining healthcare. Sen. Zodrow stated, “we urge you to support this bill and promote the freedom of choice in our healthcare system that we all have come to appreciate in the state of Wisconsin.

Sen. Zodrow’s statements were questioned by Sens. Bielen, Terpstra, and Bestul’s opposing views on AB 26 over concerns that doctors would fail to keep their agreements with their patients. Sen. Ethan Timothy proposed an amendment to AB 26 and was approved by the committee.

Likewise, Sen. Keegan Terpstra, author of AB 48 Expanding Hate Crime Law, began by explaining the reasons his bill would assist law enforcement officers facing dangerous situations daily. Sen. Terpstra remarked that officers could simply be “doing their duty and someone could just attack them because of hate or what they think of them.” Sen. Terpstra’s remarks prompted multiple questions from Sens. Zodrow, Trego, and Timothy over concerns that AB 48 rethinks the definition of what a hate crime truly is. Sen. Tianna Bestul

proposed an amendment that specifies intention of harm, followed by physical assault on law enforcement as a worthy definition of a hate crime.

VIP Meet and Greet

Campers meet state senators and representatives

By Sawyer Curtis

Before riding back to campus after the possibly stressful public hearings, campers were able to relax during a representative and senator meet and greet. There were more than ten representatives and senators there to talk with the campers. Those who had representatives there at the meet and greet were very excited to shake their hand and talk with them. I know that I am always thrilled to see my representative. Let alone have a conversation with them.

Even those who did not have any representatives there had a great time. Julianne Appling went around encouraging those not talking to find someone who was available to talk to. Even meeting someone, though they might not represent you, who is in the Senate or Assembly and makes some big



decisions regarding our state, is a great honor. We are extremely privileged to be allowed to do that, and I am very grateful to all those who organized this meet and greet and made it happen.

Adams caucuses debate micro-schools

Adams Gold proposes adding microschools as a legal schooling option

By Mary Ann Lazzell

On Wednesday afternoon, Adams Blue and Adams Gold caucuses met to hear from lobbyists and discuss SB 201. The bill adds microschools, groups of two-to-five families who combine no more than 20 children under a designated teacher in a physical location, to the legal schooling options for students and parents in Wisconsin.

Jennifer Meinhardt, the President of Non-Profit Educational Freedom for Families, passionately lobbied in support of the bill, advocating for the right of parents to choose their children's education. Meinhardt said, "A family's asking for and receiving the ability to train up their children in the way that they feel will be most beneficial for them and for their families." She also argued that some students do not learn well in either private schools or homeschool environments, and that microschools would combine the best of both worlds with a classroom setting and personalized education. When schools went virtual during the pandemic, Meinhardt experienced the difficulties of her children attending a virtual private school and resorted to homeschooling her struggling daughter. When Representative Markle, who opposes the bill, asked how microschools would affect private school attendance, Meinhardt replied, "We

shouldn't focus on the system so much. The focus should be on the education of the child and what the parent thinks is the best form of educational instruction for the child."

In opposition to the bill, Randy Melchert of the Wisconsin Philosophy Circle argued that the bill seeks to solve "a problem that does not exist." He said that the limit of 20 students was not sufficient for the maximum of five families, and that microschools are unnecessary because of the large number of co-ops in Wisconsin. He also expressed concerns that the state would not be able to enforce safety rules and standards, and that those standards should not be dictated to families in the first place. He believes that the responsibilities of a school institution are too great for private families to handle.

Another concern he mentioned was that microschools of twenty students could legally take over a public or private school sports team, violating the first amendment concerning voluntary association. Representative Rosenberg of Adams Gold asked, "Are you aware of any public schools that have actively spoken on behalf of the creation of micro schools and what their thoughts would be on this?" Melchert replied, "Our job is not to lobby on behalf of public schools. Our job is to lobby on behalf of the future of Wisconsin."

The Representatives then engaged in lively debate and discussion on the bill. Representative Markle of the opposing caucus asked, "Some parents want to homeschool their children because they want to control what is being taught in elementary school. Is it not possible that the microschool teachers and parents may disagree, creating the same problem?" Representative Schmid replied that "The very premise of a micro school is a joint agreement amongst several families, meaning that the curriculum and the way things are taught would have to be agreed upon by the families. Otherwise, the school would

cease to exist due to vigorous disagreement among the parents. In micro-schools, parents are completely free to decide what is valuable and important in their children's education."

The Microschools Bill continues to be a hot topic among Assembly Representatives throughout the week of camp, and we all look forward to a decision on Friday at the capitol.



Public Hearing Recaps

Assembly

Jefferson Blue - AB 246

By LEADer reporter staff

- AB 246 passed through committee hearing
- Lobbyist Michael Moscicke argued for AB 246 hoping to represent small voices.
- Steve Knudson argued against AB 246 representing Wisconsin affiliate Protect the Electoral College
- Micheal Moscicke: "Assembly Bill 246 would meet the intent of our founding fathers and the Constitution by allowing . . . the state legislature here in Wisconsin to determine how our state's electoral votes should be allocated."

Jefferson Gold - SB 330

By LEADer reporter staff

- SB 330 passed through committee hearing
- Lobbyist John Graber argued against SB 330 on behalf of grocers and bakers groups.
- Chris Gonzalez-Caraballo argued for SB 330 representing Wisconsin farmers coalition.
- Chris Gonzalez-Caraballo: "SB 330, also known as the cookie bill builds on the successful track record of the pickle bill, which was passed in the legislature in 2010, by supporting aspiring food entrepreneurs and serving as an on-ramp for new business development."

Madison Blue - SJR 3

- SJR 3 passed through committee hearing
- Annette Olsen, supporting lobbyist from Americans for Prosperity, Olson stated the office of State Treasurer is unnecessary since the responsibilities are handled by the Joint Committee of Finance and the Governor's office.
- Annette Olsen: Keeping the State treasurer is part of "the movement to grow the department and expand government-in-

creasing the burden on citizens."

- Opposing lobbyist, Victoria Casola from Fans of Founders argued that the State Treasurer position is needed to honor the original state constitution and its call for separation of powers.

Madison Gold - AB 616

By LEADer reporter staff

- AB 616 passed through committee hearing
- Luke Wagner, supporting lobbyist, stated that the bill was a common sense approach. The standard parent consent process used at schools successfully addresses objections to the bill.
- Michael Moscicke opposed AB 616, arguing that the bill opens school boards up to lawsuits for not doing the right. He advocated for a bill that included a specific definition for the biometrics
- Luke Wagner: The true issue at stake is whether "children are wards of the state? Or do children belong to their parents?"

Adams Blue - AB 703

By LEADer reporter staff

- AB 703 passed through committee hearing.
- John Graber, representing humane societies and law enforcement, lobbied in support of the bill, advocating for the safety of citizens and animals.
- Luke Wagner lobbied against the bill, representing UAppeal, arguing that the bill was not a "common-sense" bill and therefore wouldn't be effectively followed.
- After hearing lobbyists and asking questions, the representatives engaged in open debate.
- Luke Wagner: "The bill's good intent actually ends up hurting the animals it was meant to protect."

Adams Gold - SB 201

By LEADer reporter staff

- SB 201 passed through committee hearing.
- Jennifer Meinhardt, the President of Non-Profit Education Freedom For Families, lobbied in support of the bill, advocating for the rights of parents and the individual students who struggle with other forms of learning.
- Randy Melchert of the Wisconsin Philosophy Circle lobbied against the bill, arguing that the bill is a violation of the 1st Amendment and that the bill has too many safety loops that could potentially hurt students and schools.
- The representatives participated in open debate after the lobbyists' presentations.
- Randy Melchert: "This bill is trying to solve a problem that does not exist."

Washington Blue - SB 414

By LEADer reporter staff

- SB 414 passed through committee hearings.
- Lobbyist Renee Westphall argued for the bill SB 414, concerned that our use of computers for note taking is hurting students.
- Lobbyist Chris Gonzalaz argued against bill SB 414, saying the bill raises questions about the appropriate level of specificity of state standards and about the lack of evidence showing relative value of different amounts of instruction in cursive writing to overall student success.
- Representative Talya Cederberg: "A lot of people, including myself, enjoy writing cursive as a form of art."

Senate

Lexington Blue - AB 26

By LEADER reporter staff

- AB 26 passed through the committee hearing
- Senator John Jagler presided over the meeting as chairman of the committee
- Gracie Skogland lobbied in favor of passing AB 26
- Luke Fuller lobbied against AB 26
- Senator Timothy successfully passed an amendment to AB 26
- Senators Zodrow, Trego, Timothy, Muscenaro, and Marsh successfully passed their bill through their committee in a 5-4 roll call vote
- Senators Terpstra, Bielen, Knauf, and Bestul opposed AB 26 to no avail
- AB 26 will now proceed to the Senate hearing on Friday
- Senator John Jagler: "We're facing a general physician desert and we don't have time."

Lexington Gold - AB 48

By LEADER reporter staff

- AB 48 passed through the committee hearing
- Chairman John Jagler presided over the meeting as chairman
- Eric Wimberger lobbied in support of passing AB 48
- Annette Olson lobbied in opposition to block AB 48
- Senators Terpstra, Bielen, Knauf, and Bestuel successfully passed AB 48 with an absentee vote from Senator Williams and a tiebreaking vote from chairman John Jagler
- Senators Zodrow, Trego, Timothy, Muscenaro, and Marsh unsuccessfully opposed AB 48
- Eric Wimberger: "I think that it gives us a legal avenue by which we can better protect our officers— the folks who are keeping us safe on a daily basis in our communities."

Yorktown Blue - AB 1

By LEADER reporter staff

- AB 1 passed through committee hearing.
- Lobbyist Heidi Braughler gave her testimony for Assembly Bill 1, which helps people with pre-existing conditions get a fair insurance policy.
- Senator Carson Batzel, author of the bill, gave a speech about his bill and answered a few questions.
- Zach Stollfus, from the Big Insurance Group, gave testimony against the bill.
- Heidi Braughler: "It doesn't completely replace ObamaCare apples to apples."

Yorktown Gold - SB 314

By LEADER reporter staff

- SB 314 passed through committee hearing.
- The author of SB 314, Levi Harper, spoke on the bill that allows a very specific city, namely Waukushaw, to be allowed to sell a building designated as a historic place.
- Harper and Senator Amira Oser went back and forth with questions and answers.
- Nick Zabloudil and Chris Markenson, both lobbied for and against the bill respectively.

Saratoga Blue - AB 936

By LEADER reporter staff

- AB 936 passed through committee hearing.
- Senator Rush presented bill, arguing that it is pointed toward those who are rejecting jobs or an increase of wage. Because of this bill, that employers will benefit because the incentive of jobs will increase.
- Lobbyist Anna Kanoky who argued for the bill explained that it will help family and state as it addresses workforce issues.
- Lobbyist Maddy Hunt who argued against the bill said that it is financially impractical. People would be required to get a waiver and the bill gives no authority for that. According to Hunt, filling staff vacancies, online portal issues for DHS are concerns. This bill provides no funds.

Saratoga Gold - SJR 2

By LEADER reporter staff

- SJR 2 passed through committee hearing.
- Senator Luedtke explains that victims have not been notified of those who have hurt them, saying victims should know the process.
- Lobbyist Luke Fuller agrees with this bill. When asked if this may bring up conflict between defendant and victim, he says that rights equal court proceedings which is protection for victims.
- Luke Fuller: "If there are opportunities for tension to exist, they often parallel...the two rights are in accord, not in conflict."
- Lobbyist Lorri Pickens says that she disagrees with this bill because "it contains a poisonous issue—the right to face your accuser." According to Pickens, this would be a direct violation against the 6th amendment.

Ticonderoga Blue - AB 515

By LEADER reporter staff

- AB 515 passed through committee hearing with one amendment.
- AB 515 introduced by Sen. Boorujy; passed through committee hearing
- Lobbyist Mrs. Palmer argued for AB 515 representing a coupon company
- Niculus argued against AB 515
- Mrs. Palmer: "We want to have truth when advertising."
- One amendment introduced; passed

Ticonderoga Gold - SB 42

By LEADER reporter staff

- SB 42 passed through committee hearing with two amendments.
- SB 42 introduced by Sen. Matiash; passed through committee hearing
- Madalyn Hunt, Ph.D. argued for SB 42
- Anna Kanoky argued against SB 42
- Madalyn Hunt: "(These minutes) are certainly worthy of (a price) but if we can offer something free, then why not?"

Notices

Does your caucus want a voice in the LEADer?

We want to hear your voice. Friday morning, the LEADer will publish one letter to the editor from each of the caucuses (if your caucus submits one). The message must be about your bill (not the bill you oppose), and the message must be less than 130 words. We look forward to hearing from you.

Overheard

“Politics is hollywood for ugly people” - Daniel Suhr

“That’s why I identified as a six foot five Asian woman”
-Joseph Backholm

Q: “Haven’t you ever ridden a bus before???”

A: “Dude, we’re homeschoolers!”

“The rules are special for Julaine”
- Daniel Suhr

**Submit your quotes at
leadmedia@leadwi.org!**