FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of opposition to expansion of school voucher system

MADISON: The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network releases the following statement:

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes any expansion in our state of the private school voucher program, which would take resources away from public schools while demanding no accountability from the voucher schools.

Voucher programs provide a "scholarship" amount to be assigned to individual students to take to a private school of their choice. The funding is deducted from the public school district, and thus reduces funding for services to students remaining in the public school system.

To promote equal educational opportunity for all children in our state, the League opposes the transfer of public funds for K-12 education to any school that does not meet the same requirements as public schools, including:

- accounting for the use of public funds;
- meeting performance standards for their students;
- meeting the state standards for all school employees.

It is not clear from current data available that the voucher system in Milwaukee has provided children a better educational option than they would have received in their public schools. Taking funding away from the public schools, which are already suffering from budget cuts, and diverting it to private schools that are not publicly accountable just delays the course of a real solution.

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The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. The League never supports or opposes a candidate or a political party, but the League does advocate for positions adopted by our membership following study and consensus. There are 16 local Leagues in Wisconsin. Find the League on Facebook.