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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leading Grassroots Organization Launches Save Our Schools (S.O.S.) Wisconsin to Highlight Leadership Failures in Public Education by Governor Tony Evers and the Department of Public Instruction

Wisconsin United for Freedom awareness campaign unites parents and citizens across the state to take back control of their children's schools

De Pere, WI (Oct. 4, 2022) - Wisconsin United for Freedom (WUFF), one of the state's largest grassroots activist organizations, announced *Save our Schools (S.O.S.)*Wisconsin today, an awareness campaign featuring moms, dads, and other engaged citizens to Save Our Schools. According to WUFF, parents are raising distress signals and requesting assistance daily due to plummeting public school performance and increasing examples of politics and ideologies in classrooms. The campaign urges action from the state's education power brokers, including Governor Tony Evers and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), while uniting and equipping the growing movement of parent advocates across the state.

"The way our members see it, the DPI is more focused on small children learning about genitalia and teaching lower elementary students about sexuality than ensuring our kids can read and do math at a basic proficiency level. Our so-called "education governor" doesn't seem to think it's a problem to tell children to keep secrets from their parents. Shocking accusations of what is going on in local districts make headlines daily. It's time to sound the alarm and get all hands on deck," said Amberlee Ohlsen, Chief Communications Officer for Wisconsin United for Freedom.

S.O.S. Wisconsin features videos from concerned parents and grassroots leaders who have answered the call for help in their own communities.

In addition, WUFF will be using its expansive social media following to spotlight education failings and provide practical tips for getting involved. The campaign also includes a new <u>webpage</u> to capture contact information of parents looking to receive additional resources and be involved in future efforts.

According to WUFF, there are at least 50 loosely organized parent groups in the state exposing concerning examples of betrayed trust and academic failure, supporting school board candidates, advocating for policy change, and pushing for accountability.

"Fueled by our 50,000+ membership and connections with parent advocates, we believe everyday citizens can save our schools. We must start by calling out the obvious — Tony Evers, the DPI, the politicians, and the school boards that have allowed this to happen have failed our kids."

"The good news is, every single one of us can be a part of the solution. WUFF can help by engaging more people to take practical steps and supporting those who are leading the charge in their own districts wherever possible," said Ohlsen.

During Evers' tenure as head of the DPI and Governor of the state, not only have proficiency rates dropped drastically, bills intended to increase accountability, transparency, and respect for parents rights have been vetoed without debate or consideration, including what grassroots leaders refer to as The Parents Bill of Rights.

"At a time when the DPI's own data is confirming drastic declines in student performance, Evers even vetoed AB963. Why would Evers veto a reading intervention bill that would have provided resources to support some of the most vulnerable students already disadvantaged by disastrous choices to lock kids out of classrooms?" asked Ohlsen.

"We have heard loud and clear from parents in this state that they see what is happening and they are fed up with politicians that are failing to act and special interest groups that are trying to take the minds of their children hostage. The common thread is this—since politicians and the educational elite won't do anything, we will," said Ohlsen.

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About Wisconsin United for Freedom

Wisconsin United for Freedom was founded in 2019 to focus primarily on medical freedom in Wisconsin. Since then, the group has lobbied and fought to retain exemptions for vaccines in the state, taking on both the legislature and Wisconsin DHS.

With over 50,000 members in Wisconsin, the calling to expand into education became much louder in 2022, with parents in every corner of the state sharing stories about deplorable Human Growth and Development curriculum being introduced to very young children, teachers withholding information on their children and the refusal to let parents have a seat at the table. To that, Wisconsin United for Freedom says, "We have not ever co-parented with the government and we're certainly not going to co-parent with Wisconsin DPI. Parents deserve a seat at the table."