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Contact: Julaine Appling, President – 608-334-6435 Fax: 608-256-3370 Email: info@wifamilyaction.org

WISCONSIN JOINS STATES PROTECTING PRIVACY AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS Wisconsin Family Action Commends Attorney General Brad Schimel and DOJ

Madison – Today the Wisconsin Department of Justice joined a lawsuit filed by Texas against the Obama Administration and its Department of Justice. The lawsuit challenges the federal government's recent release of "guidelines" regarding Title IX, which includes an unconstitutional redefinition of the term "sex," to include "gender identity."

Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action, commented, "We commend and thank Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel for taking the leadership on this on behalf of all Wisconsin citizens. Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Department of Justice have repeatedly pushed back against the unconstitutional overreach of the federal government. This time, the overreach threatens the well-being of our children—Wisconsin's most valuable resource, to be sure."

With its recent release of the Title IX "guidelines" affecting every public school in the country, and extending to universities and colleges that receive federal funding, the Administration has proven it will stop at nothing to push its agenda — even if it means sacrificing the privacy and safety of the nation's children.

"There's much more at stake in this than the blatant federal government power grab. Real students at every grade level will be affected by the policies this mandate forces on our schools. I am sure our state leaders are as concerned as I am for the well-being, privacy rights and safety of our students. I am especially grateful for state legislators such as Rep. Jesse Kremer, who truly understands this issue and repeatedly has provided leadership to protect the privacy rights of all students. After this attempt by the federal government to usurp Wisconsin's authority in its own schools, I am sure many other state legislators will join him," said Appling.

While some try to make it appear that these sweeping changes are completely innocuous, more and more women who have been victims of transgender policies in restrooms, locker rooms and showers—the very places included in Obama's decree—are speaking up. Wisconsin Family Action and the Family Policy Alliance, a national group working with 40 state-based family policy groups, have been working to tell some of the stories of these women. Kate is one of those women.

"Nobody asked me first," Kate said. "I felt completely violated. I left there shaking because I felt, 'No one is looking out for me.' There are no safeguards in place whatsoever. There's no reassurance that somebody can't come in with harmful intentions." Watch <u>Ask Me First: Kate</u>.

In addition to its ongoing statewide leadership on this issue, yesterday, Wisconsin Family Action joined over 30 state level groups, as well as Family Policy Alliance and Family Research Council in sending a letter to U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other leaders in Congress, urging them to take legislative action against the Obama Administration's mandate that puts an agenda over the best interest of children.

Read the letter here.