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## State superintendent statement on passing of Sen. Herb Kohl

*Sen. Kohl was a champion of Wisconsin public education, students, educators*

MADISON – State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly released the following statement today in reaction to the passing of former Wisconsin Sen. Herb Kohl.

“I am devastated to hear of the passing of our champion for public education and school kids, Sen. Herb Kohl. Not only a senator, but also a successful businessman, philanthropist, sports leader, and a community stalwart, Herb was the very best friend to Wisconsin’s schools, educators, and kids. He supported our Teachers of the Year program, and multiple times funded entire slates of teachers’ back-to-school wish lists. Sen. Kohl supported healthy kids, as one of our nation’s top advocates for kids getting breakfast and lunch at school. Through fellowships, internships, scholarships, and awards, he funded and supported countless peoples’ education. And at every event I ever attended with him, he took time to meet every kid and parent, and to thank every teacher and principal.

“As a graduate of Milwaukee Public Schools and UW-Madison, and as a champion for our democracy, today we’ve lost one of the very best – a true mensch. I wish my best to his entire family, and I thank them for sharing him with all of us.”

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**NOTE:** A headshot of State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly is available on the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s website](#). This news release is also available online on the [DPI’s website](#).