



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement from Rep. Bowen on Passage of Senate Bill 44

MILWAUKEE – Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) issued a statement today in response to the Assembly passage of SB 44, the so-called “Right to Work” bill:

“I’m disappointed that my colleagues in the Republican Party chose to put SB 44 on the fast track and ignore not just the thousands of Wisconsin citizens who spoke out in opposition to their plan to eliminate the ability of workers to collectively bargain for better pay and working conditions, but also the mountains of data based on truth and fact.

Democrats presented economic data from other states that show that these so-called “Right to Work” laws reduce the average worker’s pay by as much as \$6000. Democrats presented that \$30 Million of private collective union funds pay for worker training to build our workforce, and that our state will be on the hook to fill in that gap when unions can’t sustain it. Democrats asked Republicans to slow down and refer SB 44 to the Committee on Small Business Development—one of the committees I serve on—so we could ensure we took ensure SB 44 received the level of consideration a bill of this magnitude demanded. But in all of these instances, Republicans could not see past the “D” attached to our positions to the merits of the debate on this flawed policy and process.

I’m afraid Wisconsin workers will be paying the costs of the Republican Party’s rush to do the bidding of corporate special interests for years to come. I question the timing of this proposal as nearly all Republicans in the last election cycle did not claim interest to run on a platform passing this type of policy. Our governor is the best example. Back when he was running for reelection, Gov. Walker said “private sector unions have overwhelmingly come to the table to be my partner in economic development.” It is not too late to do the right thing.

I urge Presidential Candidate Walker of 2015 to listen to Gubernatorial Candidate Walker of 2014 and veto this destructive piece of legislation.”
