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The truth still doesn't matter to state Rep. Zamarripa

MADISON, Wis. – State Rep. Joe Sanfelippo is issuing a correction on a recent news release regarding municipal identification cards because its author, Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa, has refused to acknowledge a request to do it herself.

In a [press release](#) published on March 16, Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee, knowingly put out false information by claiming that [Senate Bill 533](#) would “ban municipalities from issuing Local ID Cards.” The legislation clearly states that all cities and villages in Wisconsin are still allowed to distribute municipal IDs to their residents.

Unfortunately, Zamarripa continues to send out misleading statements despite Sanfelippo having corrected her false narrative in personal conversations, in [press releases](#) and [editorials](#), at a [public hearing](#) on the bill and, most recently, in a [March 17 email](#) asking that she correct her inaccurate comments. That request remains ignored.

“Rep. Zamarripa knows full well that SB 533 does not ban municipalities from disseminating local ID cards because we’ve had multiple discussions about this and it plainly says as much right in the bill,” said Sanfelippo, R-New Berlin. “I think it’s despicable when public officials purposely spread misinformation like this for their own political gain. It’s those actions that lead to people being skeptical of our elected leaders.”

SB 533, which is awaiting the governor’s signature, establishes a statewide uniform process for the production and use of municipal IDs, which was previously absent from state law.

Under the bill, all cities and villages can issue local IDs, but the cards must clearly state they cannot be used for voting. They also cannot be used to obtain state public benefits.

The legislation does prohibit counties and towns, which are extensions of state government, from spending money on or issuing municipal IDs. Because [Wisconsin residents can already get a state ID for free](#), creating and paying for another government photo identification card would be repetitive and a waste of taxpayer money.

“This bill actually helps municipalities that want their residents to have local IDs because, until now, state statutes had been silent on this topic,” Sanfelippo said. “By putting these guidelines into state law, cities and villages now know exactly what they need to do to avoid any potential lawsuits. So, if the city of Milwaukee wants to issue a local ID, there is nothing stopping them from doing so.”

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