



Dear friends,

In February, Assembly Republicans rushed through nearly 200 bills in what they promised will be the end of the 2015-2016 legislative session. The majority party decided to adjourn the legislative session at the earliest date in nearly 50 years.

As state representatives elected to serve our districts and address our state's biggest challenges, we were disappointed that we were sent home early with so much work left undone.

In the flurry of bills passed, there was no action to boost Wisconsin's paltry job creation record, no help for our public schools and no action on anemic wage growth. The party in power took no steps to address our crumbling roads and bridges and there was nothing done to lower monthly student loan payments for the one million Wisconsinites saddled with student loan debt.

No matter where you live, we all share the same Wisconsin values and dreams for our future.

Ordinary people tell us that they want their kids to get a high-quality education, they want to protect our lakes, and they want their communities to be safe and for small businesses to thrive. They want a chance to pursue the American Dream by working hard, playing by the rules and making a better future for the next generation.

Unfortunately, during the legislative session, majority Republicans were far more focused on rewarding their political friends than on addressing the issues ordinary Wisconsinites face.

- Instead of investing in our neighborhood schools as we proposed, majority Republicans voted to divert [up to \\$800 million](#) in taxpayer funds over the next 10 years to unaccountable private schools, then imposed [a \\$5.3 million hit](#) to

public schools in the session's final days.

- Instead of growing jobs as we proposed, majority Republicans protected their own jobs by [doubling campaign contribution limits](#) and [dismantling the non-partisan campaign oversight board](#).
- Instead of stopping companies from outsourcing jobs on the taxpayer dime as we proposed, majority Republicans protected ethically challenged politicians and potential criminals by [making it harder to prosecute political corruption](#).
- Instead of growing wages as we proposed, majority Republicans drove down wages by passing right-wing policies like [so-called "Right to Work"](#) and [gutting prevailing wage protections](#).
- Instead of allowing student loan borrowers to refinance their debt as we proposed, majority [Republicans did not even pass the governor's modest tax deduction](#) for those saddled with student debt.
- Instead of investing in our economic engines of growth as we proposed, majority Republicans gutted the UW System by a [quarter billion dollars](#) and failed to reform our [scandal-plagued jobs agency](#).
- Instead of maintaining our parks, clean lakes and groundwater as we proposed, majority Republicans sold out our conservation tradition and future economy by allowing [selling off our parks](#) and [eviscerating key environmental protections](#).

Worst of all, Republican legislators tried to keep more of what they're doing secret. Their [failed attempt to roll back our state's open records laws](#) would have made it nearly impossible for taxpayers to hold lawmakers accountable for their actions in office.

The people of Wisconsin deserve better.

Assembly Democrats spent all session aggressively pushing forward a positive alternative. That's why we pursued an economic opportunity and middle-class agenda to grow jobs and wages and make us competitive in the global economy. We also advocated for sustainable transportation, full and fair funding for our public schools, and reforms to make our jobs agency and government more accountable to taxpayers.

As your state representatives, we are here for you year-round. We want to represent your voices at the State Capitol. We encourage each and every one of you to get involved and stay informed on the critical issues facing our state. Contact us if there is an issue you care about or let us know if there is a way we can serve you better.

Together, we can take steps to ensure that future legislative sessions address the issues that keep people awake at night.

We look forward to joining with the families and small businesses to build a smarter, cleaner and more prosperous state.

Sincerely,

Assembly Democratic Members

<a href="#">Rep. Peter Barca</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Mandela Barnes</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Terese Berceau</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Jill Billings</a>
<a href="#">Rep. David Bowen</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Jonathan Brostoff</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Dave Considine</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Chris Danou</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Steve Doyle</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Eric Genrich</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Evan Goyke</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Gary Hebl</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Dianne Hesselbein</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Gordon Hintz</a>	<a href="#">Rep. LaTonya Johnson</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Andy Jorgensen</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Robb Kahl</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Fred Kessler</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Debra Kolste</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Cory Mason</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Beth Meyers</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Nick Milroy</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Tod Ohnstad</a>	<a href="#">Rep. SONDY POPE</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Daniel Riemer</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Melissa Sargent</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Katrina Shankland</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Chris Sinicki</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Mark Spreitzer</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Amanda Stuck</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Lisa Subeck</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Chris Taylor</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Dana Wachs</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Leon Young</a>	<a href="#">Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa</a>	<a href="#">Rep. Josh Zepnick</a>

P.S. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472.

**Wisconsin Assembly Democrats**

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