



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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HEBL FIGHTS AGAINST POLITICAL PATRONAGE BILL

(MADISON) – Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) today opposed Republican legislation to inject patronage and cronyism into the state’s civil service system.

Assembly Bill 373 would eliminate Wisconsin’s objective civil service hiring process in favor of a politicized hiring procedure administered through the Department of Administration, an arm of the governor’s administration.

Hebl said that civil service overhaul legislation continues the majority party’s focus on its self-serving, politically motivated agenda. Hebl pointed to bills passed by the majority last week that shield politicians from corruption investigations, inject partisanship into the state’s elections watchdog, and open the door for corporate donations to flood Wisconsin politics.

On the floor of the Assembly, Hebl urged his legislative colleagues to protect the integrity of the civil service system and reject the bill. Hebl invoked the legacy of former Wisconsin governor and the father of the Wisconsin civil service system, Robert M. La Follette, Sr.

“Governor La Follette would be devastated by what you did last week to dismantle good government in Wisconsin, but he would take your action today to politicize the civil service system personally,” Hebl said.

Governor La Follette instituted the civil service program in Wisconsin in 1905 to prevent political patronage. The system – which currently includes about 30,000 state employees – has operated successfully for 110 years.

“Turning the civil service into an extension of the Governor’s office is an attempt to create a new political army of partisan soldiers in Wisconsin who will owe their allegiance to General Walker or be dishonorably discharged,” Hebl said.

Assembly Bill 373 passed the Assembly on a party-line vote.

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