



*****Media Release*****

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Rep. Shankland Responds to GOP Assertion That It's Too Late for Meaningful Action on Comprehensive Financial Aid Bill

MADISON – In a recent news report, Rep. Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) stated that implementing a comprehensive financial aid bill is not feasible at this point in the legislative session, and that it should have instead been included in the 2015-17 state budget. In response, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“I want to remind Rep. Murphy that Democratic members of the Joint Committee on Finance did bring forward a budget motion during the 2015-2017 biennial budget process last year. The Democratic motion would have increased appropriations for need-based aid to UW-System students. Every single Republican on the Joint Finance Committee voted down the budget motion, which would have provided financial assistance to thousands of Wisconsin students and had a substantially smaller fiscal note than my current proposal. Rep. Murphy doesn't get to argue it should've happened earlier and should cost less – Democrats already advanced a motion that fit both of his criteria, yet Republicans flatly rejected the motion to fund more financial aid for students.

“This bill is a worthwhile investment in our state's future leaders and workforce. It would ensure we are giving students the resources they need to succeed. It's a shame that Rep. Murphy is spending more time speaking out against Democratic bills that help students afford college than he is focusing on solving the student loan debt crisis.

“Real reform on higher education affordability would include student loan refinancing so the one million borrowers in the state could have relief. Real reform would make college more affordable for 34,000 technical college students and 1,600 UW students by funding need-based financial aid. Republicans should join Democrats on this legislation and commit to making higher education more accessible to everyone.”

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