



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Katrina Shankland**

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER  
71<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Media Release

*For Immediate Release*  
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**Republicans Sell Out Our School Children to Private School Special Interests**

MADISON – Early this morning, Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee voted to undercut local control and divert even more funding from public schools to unaccountable voucher schools. In response, Assistant Assembly Democratic Leader Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“It’s like Groundhog Day in the Capitol. Just as Republicans sold out our school children with a massive voucher expansion last session, today Republicans voted to divert hundreds of millions of dollars from public schools to voucher schools over the coming years. They passed a measure to create unaccountable special needs vouchers that will take rights and resources away from students with disabilities. It is an insult to slip these harmful provisions into the budget while Wisconsin families are sleeping.

“Republicans also voted to initiate a government takeover of school districts in Milwaukee, Racine, and Madison. Locally elected school board members rightfully govern their neighborhood schools, but Republicans plan to wrest local control from school boards and allow people with no experience in education to take over public schools. This is a brazen political power grab that smacks of right-wing influence in smoky backroom deals with lobbyists, campaign contributors, and special interests.

“We have a constitutional obligation to fund our public schools. It’s heartbreaking that our neighborhood schools are political pawns on the governor’s path to the presidency. If Republicans continue to get drunk on power and drive down this road of privatization, our school kids will end up spending hours on the school bus as their neighborhood schools dissolve. Property taxes will go up as schools will be forced to go to operating referendums to keep the lights on. I encourage every parent, teacher, and community member to get involved in this urgent public education discussion.”

*Rep. Shankland’s comments following the Joint Finance Committee’s budget vote on 6/5/2013:*

“Making billion dollar decisions while the public is sleeping is an insult to our democracy. Anyone who cares about the future of our state should be gravely concerned. This backroom deal, negotiated only among Republican leaders and their heftiest campaign contributors, is unilateral decision making, not real representation. Wisconsin is suffering from distorted priorities and failed leadership under the cover of the dark of night, and we all deserve better.”

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