



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**BETH MEYERS**

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**Dismantling Wisconsin's open records law, will set the stage for corruption**

MADISON – State Representative Beth Meyers (D – Bayfield) issued the following statement regarding the Open Records Law changes by the Joint Committee on Finance.

*“I was shocked when I heard about the changes to the Open Records Law made by the Joint Committee on Finance. Legislative records should be open to the public, and I see no valid reason why changes are necessary. I can assume the only reason these changes were made is to hide any possible links to pay to play politics and abuse by politicians in Madison. The Republican lawmakers, who are not brave enough to come forward and take responsibility as authors are attempting to hide the influence of special interests and other direct threats to our democratic process. Alongside my fellow Democrats, I will do everything in my power to remove this dangerously, unnecessary change to the Open Records Law in our state,”* stated Representative Beth Meyers.

Today Democratic leaders also announced a bill with the goal of preventing future last-minute abuses of the budget process. This bill would require that all non-fiscal policy items identified by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) be referred to standing committees in each house of the legislature. Those would be required to hold a public hearing and an executive session on each item, thereby allowing for public input on each policy item inserted into the budget and allowing standing committees to voice their approval or disapproval.

Open records requests from the public as well as media outlets have helped shed light on everything from potential corruption at Governor Walker’s jobs agency, also known as WEDC to criminal activity that led to the convictions of six of the governor’s former aides, as well as the revelation that a major mining company essentially re-wrote large sections of Wisconsin’s environmental laws.

*“There is a reason why they are called public open records, they are there to protect the public,”* said Meyers.

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