



SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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PUBLIC EDUCATION ADVOCATES ASK LAWMAKERS TO ADEQUATELY FUND SCHOOLS; SCHOOL CHOICE WI WHINES

MADISON – Earlier today, Rep. Sondy Pope (D-Cross Plains) stood with dozens of advocates, including administrators, teachers, parents and students, who rallied at the State Capitol today to urge that lawmakers adequately fund public schools in Wisconsin.

“I am nothing but impressed at the level of dedication and hard work displayed by these grassroots public education groups. Their involvement on both a statewide and local level clearly illustrates the building wave of public opinion that parents and non-parents alike want our neighborhood schools strong and adequately funded,” said Rep. Pope. “While Governor Walker continues to be a truant governor and legislative Republicans continue to bicker, these people are fighting and working hard to preserve a promising future for their children – and our future workforce.”

Following this event, President of the pro-voucher group School Choice WI, Jim Bender, issued a release which decried parents and citizens who are simply asking lawmakers that they elected to hear their voice. Not surprisingly, Mr. Bender also quickly attempted to downplay the millions of dollars being funneled to subsidize private education; money that helps pay his salary.

“Perhaps Mr. Bender only supports parental choice when they choose [unaccountable](#), for-profit voucher schools. An overwhelming majority of parents in Wisconsin have made their choice and they’ve chosen our traditionally strong and accountable public schools,” Rep. Pope said. “Mr. Bender as usual, blatantly ignores the interests of hard-working families and citizens and shamefully attempts to marginalize their efforts.

Voucher proponents’ requests are simple: more money, less accountability.”