



SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



For Immediate Release
June 24, 2015

Contact: Rep. Sondy Pope
608-266-3520

TAXPAYER-FUNDED CHILD ABUSE?

UNACCOUNTABLE VOUCHER SCHOOL TAKES ANOTHER STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

MADISON - This week, a lawsuit was filed against Milwaukee private school Right Step alleging assault of students. Right Step is a participant of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, and boasts a majority of students attending on government-subsidized vouchers. Rep. Sondy Pope released the following statement regarding the lawsuit:

“I am horrified by the accusations of abuse at any school,” said Rep. Pope. “Parents have said that their children were beaten, denied food and water, their personal affects urinated on, forced to lie in vomit, and held in smoke-filled rooms until passing out – all at the hands of their so-called teachers.”

This incident is not the first time Right Step instructors have been accused of abusing students. Right Step officials’ unethical behavior has been called into question by parents through legal challenges more than once in the school’s short history.

“The newest allegations against the school are shocking. At Right Step, students are being physically and mentally abused on the taxpayer’s dime.”

“This incident shows clearly what a lack of accountability in our schools can mean for students. Instead of squabbling with parents, locally elected school boards, and public school administrators, School Choice Wisconsin should instead spend its time making sure the schools for which they lobby are not physically and emotionally assaulting students while operating on taxpayer funds.”

“Somehow, Republicans in our legislature think schools like Right Step are more deserving of their time and resources than public schools. The current budget proposes diverting even more funding from our public schools to schools like Right Step. Our children deserve safe, accountable learning environments – not more unethical and unaccountable replacements. Schools in private choice programs must be held to the same accountability and oversight standards in order to protect our students.”

###