



SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



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Contact: Rep. Sondy Pope
608-266-3520

GOP MOTION WOULD MAKE WISCONSIN THE ONLY STATE IN THE NATION TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO TEACH WITHOUT A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

MADISON – Representative Sondy Pope (D-Cross Plains) commented today on a memo that was prepared by the non-partisan Legislative Council regarding teacher licensing under K-12 education omnibus motion #457. This motion was approved last week in the middle of the night without public debate or input. It includes a provision that drastically lowers the standards for who is able to teach in Wisconsin.

“Governor Walker and Republican Legislators are again pushing irresponsible, short-sighted policies that will further weaken the quality of our public schools,” said Rep. Pope. “Lowering qualification standards for teachers and continuing to devalue their profession will do nothing positive for education nor will it address any of the issues such as adequate funding, classroom sizes, and achievement gaps that have plagued school districts under the current administration. I find it hard to believe that any parent in this state wants an unqualified and unprepared person teaching their kids. “

According to the Legislative Council, the new budget provision allows people with experience in certain subject areas to teach in our classrooms without a bachelor’s degree and without a subjective measure of competency. *It would make Wisconsin the only state in the nation that would allow people to teach without a bachelor’s degree.*

“Policies like these are an embarrassment to our state and disrespectful to the work of the highly qualified educators that serve our schools,” continued Rep. Pope. “We should be finding ways to keep talented people in our classrooms and recruiting the next generation of teachers, not plastering over the problem with reckless licensing changes. Wisconsin is unique and stands out in so many ways,” concluded Rep. Pope. “This should not be one of them“

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