



STATE CAPITOL PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
PHONE (608) 266-7746 TOLL-FREE (888) 534-0081
EMAIL Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov
WEB <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/81/considine>

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Contact: Rep. Considine
(608) 266-7746

Rep. Considine Delivers First Speech to State Assembly

Madison – Yesterday, State Representative Dave Considine delivered his first speech on the Assembly floor. In his maiden speech, Rep. Considine shared his personal experiences as a teacher to draw attention to the importance of unions in protecting everyday workers and their families. In the midst of a 24-hour debate led by Assembly Democrats, he urged his colleagues to reject so-called “Right to Work” legislation.

“Twenty years ago, I would have been strongly encouraging you to vote *for* this bill. My beliefs at that point came from where I grew up: a very conservative farm family, both religiously and politically. I farmed full-time for ten years, and then I became a teacher - and I resented paying my union dues,” Considine stated.

While recounting the story of a court case involving the family of one of his students labeled Emotionally and Behaviorally Disordered, Rep. Considine emphasized the crucial role his union played, stepping in to protect his career and his family’s livelihood after school district legal protections were withdrawn.

“Ronald Reagan said, ‘Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.’ Yet here we are, in Wisconsin, running both corporations’ and unions’ lives – and we want to talk about freedom,” Rep. Considine said. “I want the freedom to have a job, protected by my union, so that I can be home to watch my kids play ball, or milk goats. I have the freedom, in my union, to choose my mission. That doesn’t need to be taken from me. Please reject this bill.”

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