

For Immediate Release: For More Information Contact: Rep. John Spiros (608) 266-1182

Wisconsin Bill To End Sanctuary Cities Passes State Assembly

State's Legislation Modeled After Congressional Bill – Nationally Recognized Initiative Gaining Momentum in Wisconsin's Republican Legislature

Madison...State Representative John Spiros (R-Marshfield) scored a major victory last night as his legislation to end sanctuary cities in Wisconsin overcame a major hurdle by passing one house of the State Legislature. The bill now goes to the State Senate which has only a few days left on its legislative session calendar. Rep. Spiros's legislation would withhold funding from cities that ignore federal immigration laws and harbor illegal immigrants. Modeled after U.S. Senator Vitter's "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act", Representative Spiros's proposal would cut state aid from any community with a policy of preventing officials from inquiring about the immigration status of arrestees or those refusing to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Such communities could lose between \$500 and \$5000 of state aid, depending upon its population, for each day of noncompliance. The measure passed the State Assembly yesterday on a party line vote of 63-35.

Rep. Spiros's initiative (Assembly Bill 450) would prohibit any city, village, town or county from enacting or enforcing an ordinance or policy that would prohibit an employee from inquiring about the immigration status of an individual who has been charged with a crime, or prohibiting an employee from cooperating with or assisting the federal government with immigration enforcement.

There are more than 200 cities and counties across the U.S. that are considered "sanctuary cities". In general, a sanctuary city is a city, village, town or county that instructs its employees not to cooperate with federal immigration law enforcement authorities. These cities enact these policies despite federal law. Currently Wisconsin has three entities considered to be sanctuary cities: Madison, Milwaukee County and Racine.

"I'm not about to let another Kathryn Steinle tragedy happen here in Wisconsin, like it did in San Francisco," stated Spiros. "Sanctuary cities are willfully ignoring federal law and unless they stop endangering our citizens, they are going to lose their state aid. Period."

Representative Spiros has been viciously attacked by the leftwing media and so-called "immigration advocates" who continue their protests at the WI State Capitol against his bill. A former law enforcement officer himself, Spiros refuses to back down to those attacks and is working with his Republican colleagues in the State Senate to pass his bill before the Legislative Session ends in March.

JOHN SPIROS

State Representative • 86th Assembly District



At a recent legislative hearing on AB 450, so-called “undocumented immigrants” packed the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison to oppose the legislation. Numerous attendees used words like “racist” and “discriminatory” to describe the bill and demanded that it be withdrawn or defeated.

Rep. Spiros believes that he has enough support in the State Senate, although the bill has not been scheduled for a vote yet. Time is running short as there are only a few voting days left of in this year’s Legislative Session.

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