



SCOTT ALLEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

10-21-15

Contact: Representative Scott Allen

608-266-8580

REP. ALLEN says AB 387 bill does not go far enough

Madison- Representative Scott Allen (R.-Waukesha) supports the effort to clean up campaign finance law, but cautions that it doesn't do enough to protect free speech.

The need for campaign finance reform is clear. The courts have requested that the legislature clean-up campaign finance law to be consistent with recent court rulings which found in favor of the right to free speech.

While the task is monumental and the efforts by the authors are commendable, unfortunately the resulting bill comes up short.

Court rulings have found in favor of free speech and yet the bill that passed the Assembly continues to stifle the right of the individual to contribute to a political candidate in an amount that they deem appropriate. The action indicates a belief that the legislature knows best how much an individual should be able to contribute to a political candidate.

There are twelve states that allow individuals to contribute to candidates in an unlimited manner; twelve states that allow individuals the ability to express their political beliefs in a manner that they see fit. Yet based on this bill, in Wisconsin we continue to impose arbitrary dollar limits on political contributions from individuals.

Those who support AB387 have suggested that current law encourages contributions to unaccountable, third party actors, and they suggest that the doubling of campaign limits would help reduce that. Interestingly, if the individual campaign contribution limits were adjusted for inflation from when they were first created, an updated limit might be as much as five times the current levels.

In contrast, however, unlimited contributions can be made to legislative campaign committees or to political parties. Unlimited contributions are also permissible from those organizations to candidates.

"I fundamentally believe in free speech. Free speech should not be allowed in some cases and restricted in others," said Rep. Scott Allen. "As Republicans we should be advocating for individual liberties and not limiting them," Allen said.

###



SCOTT ALLEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT