



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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February 01, 2007
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Van Roy Applauds Assembly Vote to Kill "Frankenstein Veto"

MADISON – Rep. Karl Van Roy applauded the passage of AJR 1 today in the State Assembly by a bi-partisan vote of 72-26. AJR 1 is the second consideration of a constitutional amendment that would limit the partial veto power of the governor. The amendment would prohibit the Governor from combining parts of different sentences to create new sentences, commonly known as the "Frankenstein Veto."

"Governing is about checks and balances; no single elected official should have the ability to re-write laws with no oversight. The passage of this amendment will help to restore that balance," said Representative Karl Van Roy (R-Howard).

Under current law, the Governor is allowed to veto an appropriation bill in a manner that can combine words from multiple sentences to create a new sentence. In the last state budget, Governor Doyle took that power too far when he strung together 33 carefully selected words and individual numbers from unrelated sentences to write entirely new laws the legislature never intended. Doyle's action resulted in the governor's veto power being used to increase state spending for the first time in state history.

"Since the veto pen is now being used to increase spending, this will help return some fiscal sanity to the budget and return accountability to the taxpayer. However, this amendment will not affect the ability of the Governor to reduce spending," stated Van Roy.

In 1992 Attorney General Jim Doyle agreed with the State Assembly when he stated, "No one should be able to create new laws through the use of a veto. As we all learned in our studies of good government, laws should be written by the legislature and either approved or rejected by the governor." Ten years later when he ran for governor, Doyle also stated, "I don't think you should be able to go in and take a word out there and a word out here and create a whole new sentence."

"It is clear that this is in no way a partisan issue. It's about maintaining the integrity of the legislative process and legislature intent through the democratic principle of separation of powers. I think the public recognizes that this is just the right thing to do," said Van Roy.

The constitutional amendment now moves to the State Senate. If the State Senate approves the measure, it will then go to the voters of Wisconsin this April.