



# SONDY POPE-ROBERTS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Sondy Pope-Roberts

608-266-3520

## **REP. POPE-ROBERTS' REACTION TO WALKER'S EDUCATION REFORM PACKAGE**

(MADISON) Rep. Sondy Pope-Roberts (D-Middleton) released the following statement regarding Governor Walker's education reform package outlined today:

"As a member of the School and District Accountability Design Team (SDADT), I fully support the robust recommendations that are being discussed and developed at our meetings," said Rep. Pope-Roberts. "I have not yet seen the legislation being drafted by the Governor and Republican leaders and am very concerned that the bipartisan efforts that have come from this group's work thus far are being hijacked for political gain."

"Many of the provisions outlined by the Governor today fall under the constitutional authority of the State Superintendent and it is unnerving to hear that he was not consulted during the drafting of this legislation," continued Rep. Pope-Roberts. "State Superintendent Tony Evers and his staff have played a critical role in the Read to Lead Task Force, the SDADT, and the Educator Effectiveness Design Team. Cutting our state's foremost education experts out of the process at this time is very shortsighted and reckless."

"Additionally, as I've said before, changes and new requirements of schools and districts come with an increased price tag," Rep. Pope-Roberts said. "At a time when districts statewide are attempting to brace for another round of budget deficits – this time without one-time fixes and federal funds – throwing additional unfunded initiatives onto their plate is inappropriate," Rep. Pope-Roberts continued.

"It is important to remember that this is the same administration and legislative leadership that gouged \$1.6 billion dollars from public schools to reward campaign contributors through corporate tax breaks and giveaways and attempted to label it reform. Until we actually see proposals that we can help shape through the legislative process, Wisconsin schools will continue to suffer under Gov. Walker," concluded Rep. Pope-Roberts.

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