



CHRIS KAPENGA

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

EMBARGOED UNTIL FINAL PASSAGE OF BILLS

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Senator Kapenga Statement on Passage of GAB and Campaign Finance Reform Bills

Madison – Senator Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) issued the following statement after the state Senate passed two bills aimed at protecting the integrity of elections and reforming campaign finance laws in Wisconsin:

Assembly Bill 387

“Wisconsin’s campaign finance laws are broken, outdated, and long overdue for legislative action. Numerous court decisions have rendered our laws unreadable and unenforceable. The courts and even the Government Accountability Board have challenged the legislature to tackle this problem by rewriting the statutes. In the absence of clear boundaries on the government’s ability to regulate political speech, regulators have encroached on the First Amendment rights of individuals and groups to engage in the political process. This bill fixes this problem by establishing greater accountability, ensuring the constitutionality of our statutes, and increasing transparency in our political process.”

Assembly Bill 388

“Eight years since its inception, the deficiencies within the Government Accountability Board have been well-documented. Audits from the Legislative Audit Bureau have found a host of issues with the board, ranging from a failure to perform regular duties to a blatant disregard of state statutes. The shortcomings of this model are evidenced by the simple fact that no other state has followed our lead. Our actions to overhaul the agency are necessary to ensure our state’s elections and ethics laws are administered in a fair, balanced, and accountable manner.”

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