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# SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Assembly Dems Choose Bureaucracy over Licensed Professionals: Not One Amendment Offered...**

**Madison** – Representative Shae Sortwell (R-Gibson) released the following statement today regarding the passage of an occupational licensing reform package during the WI Assembly’s floor session yesterday:

“Wisconsin’s prospective licensed professionals have faced massive delays on their license applications with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) for the last two years. To solve this problem, the legislature created a bipartisan study committee last year, on which I served along with three legislative colleagues and five public members. The committee crafted and passed nine bills, all of which received **bipartisan/unanimous support from the committee**.”

“Unfortunately, the Assembly Democrats would rather play partisan politics with the budget than support bills that would reduce licensing delays, mainly by reducing the workload of DSPS, and get professionals into the workplace to provide vital services at a time where there is a growing need for standard health and mental healthcare.”

“The Democrats continued to beat the same drum that these bills needed improvements. However, **not a single amendment was offered by them**. As I said on the floor yesterday, if you want to work with us to improve bills, you actually need to do some work. Rather than coming to the discussion table, they stayed silent and deferred to the direction of Governor Evers, who has a habit of choosing the bureaucracy over the common Wisconsinite.”

“I can appreciate three of the seven bills getting at least one Democrat vote. Nonetheless, it is exceptionally disappointing that not a single one voted for a bill that would quicken the licensing process for individuals with criminal convictions. Having served their time, these people are looking to give back to society with their talents. Unfortunately, they are collateral damage in the Democrats’ political games.”

Representative Sortwell is available for comment.

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