



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE FOX POINT GRAFTON MEQUON THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

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Rep. Deb Andraca Highlights Bills that #NeverHadAHeating GOP Majority Denies Public Hearings on Wisconsin's Top Priorities

Madison, Wis. -- Gun violence, abortion rights, climate change, and healthcare are among Wisconsin voters' top concerns, according to the August 2022 [Marquette University poll](#). Yet bills addressing these and other top priorities were routinely blocked by Republican legislative leaders during the 2021-2022 legislative session. To call attention to the problem, some of these bills that died in committee will be featured by Representative Deb Andraca's office in a series of social media posts called #neverhadahearing on Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok (@RepAndraca).

"In a state like Wisconsin that is evenly divided between the number of registered Republicans and Democrats, bills should be advanced based on merit, not party affiliation," said Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay). "Unfortunately, when almost exclusively Republican-led bills are advanced and compromise is rare, many of these one-sided bills are destined to be vetoed by a Democratic governor. This isn't legislating, this is partisan theater and it's a waste of taxpayers' time and money."

According to the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Republican majority in the 2021-2022 State Assembly held public hearings on **only 1.9% of bills with a Democrat as first author** vs. 76.5% of bills led by a GOP member. By comparison, in the 2009-2010 legislative session, 39% of bills with a minority party author received a hearing. Many high-priority issues like firearm safety, abortion rights, fair maps, clean water, and healthcare were sidelined by Republicans who chair all of the standing committees and determine which bills have the opportunity for public debate.

"With a divided government - a Republican-controlled legislature and Democratic governor - bipartisanship should be the norm, not the exception," Andraca continued. "A public hearing is where voters get to weigh in on a proposal, legislators get to hear from experts on all sides, and compromises can be made."

"Instead, during this session bills were denied a hearing to protect more moderate members who may want to vote with the other party, "anonymous objections" were made by the Joint Finance Committee, and hearings were delayed for months, even years. These anti-democratic maneuvers go against our ideals of an open, transparent government working for the greater good of the state."





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With the social media series #neverhadahearing, Andraca hopes voters will gain an understanding of one of the biggest causes of Madison's legislative gridlock and will demand that their elected officials focus on the issues voters care about, not a political agenda.

“Our gerrymandered political maps ensure that one party can dictate the rules of the game. Unfortunately, this lack of bipartisanship in the legislature guarantees that the majority of Wisconsinites who are in the political middle are the ones who lose the most.”

To see all the graphics in the series, visit www.repandraca.com

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