



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE BROWN DEER FOX POINT MEQUON RIVER HILLS THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

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Rep. Deb Andraca Votes for Bipartisan Shared Revenue Bill But School Funding Bill Doesn't Make the Grade

Madison, Wis. – On a busy legislative day, the Assembly passed bills that provide more revenue for local municipalities and increased funding for public schools and publicly-funded voucher schools. State Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) released the following statement on the day's activity:

"The legislature finally decides to fix the shared revenue formula for all Wisconsin municipalities, but Republican leaders just can't help taking a swipe at Milwaukee," said Andraca. "I voted for the bill because of the long-overdue fix for municipal funding, and to enable the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County to gain urgently-needed new sources of revenue, but the way we had to get there was wrong."

Andraca co-sponsored an amendment that would have removed most of the extraneous policy provisions such as those dealing with local health officers, regulation of certain quarry operations, local approval of projects and activities under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program, and other provisions unrelated to shared revenue. It was voted down along party lines.

The Assembly also passed a bill to significantly boost funding for voucher schools but it falls far short for public schools. Because the bill was rushed through committee in such a short amount of time, the impact on local property taxes was unclear. However, preliminary estimates from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau indicate that **property taxpayers will face three times the increase under the Republican proposal** than they would under Governor Evers' budget.

"With a \$7 billion surplus, we had a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our kids," said Andraca. "Instead, this bill barely improves the funding gap for special education in public schools and directs most of the increase to voucher schools. This bill is sloppy, irresponsible legislation. In a year with a \$7 billion state surplus, we can do so much better on behalf of the vast majority of students who attend Wisconsin's public schools," said Andraca.

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