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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Callahan Supports Legislative Changes to UW-System Policies

[Madison, WI] – During yesterday’s State Assembly floor session, State Representative Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) voted in favor of several important policies affecting the University of Wisconsin (UW) System. If enacted, these proposals would establish a right to free speech on UW campuses, revise several of our higher education grant programs to ensure students are receiving the grants based on need and not race, and guarantee admissions for top-performing students at UW-Madison and the rest of the UW-System.

“The United States Supreme Court ruled on the issue of Affirmative Action earlier this year,” stated Rep. Callahan. “To ensure our state’s grant programs are in line with the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 554](#) revises the program to remove race as a factor and requires the criteria to be based on a student’s need. I am proud to have co-authored this legislation.”

The other two UW-System bills passed are [AB 370](#) and [AB 553](#). The first bill includes multiple provisions related to prohibiting UW schools and technical colleges from restricting a speaker’s First Amendment right to free speech. Importantly, the bill requires the UW System to conduct a biennial survey of students on their First Amendment rights and to submit the results to the Legislature. AB 553 will ensure the best and brightest students from Wisconsin attend our UW campuses by requiring those with a class ranking in the top 5% be guaranteed admission to UW-Madison and those with a class ranking in the top 10% be guaranteed admission to all other UW schools.

“I was glad to support these proposals that benefit not only our students, but our state as a whole,” continued Rep. Callahan. “The UW System states that [nearly 90% of in-state UW graduates](#) stay here after graduation, and I know that there are many UW alumni working throughout the 35th Assembly District. By improving the UW System, we can ensure that the next generation of workers in Wisconsin are prepared to lead us forward.

These bills now head to the State Senate for their consideration.

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The 35th Assembly District includes all of Lincoln and Langlade Counties, as well as portions of Marathon, Oconto, Oneida, and Shawano Counties.