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# JON PLUMER

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## **Rep. Plumer Fights for Free Speech on Campus**

**MADISON, WI** – Today in the Assembly, Rep. Plumer voted in favor of higher education reforms to protect free speech and end race-based affirmative action on college campuses across Wisconsin.

“Far too often on college campuses we see students shouted down or intentionally disrupted, physically blocked from attending a speech, or have their opinions censored,” said Rep. Plumer. “Regardless of the viewpoint expressed, free speech should be the norm across college campuses. Today, I was proud to vote in favor of legislation to protect this fundamental right for students.”

The Assembly passed two bills to protect free speech on campus:

- AB551 ensures freedom of the press for student journalists on campus and in school-sponsored media, and provides students a pathway to fight back if those rights are violated.
- AB553 states that no UW school or tech college may restrict a student or speaker’s lawful speech on campus, place undue burdens on speakers in an attempt to restrict their free speech, and prevents individuals from intentionally disrupting lawful speech. The bill provides penalties for any institution that violates these protections.

Additionally, in response to the U.S Supreme Court ruling against race-based affirmative action programs in higher education, the Assembly passed legislation ending those programs in higher education in Wisconsin. AB554 prevents race being used as a criteria, utilizing the term “disadvantaged” instead. This will ensure such programs are help individuals on a needs-base rather than the color of their skin.

“The Supreme Court striking down affirmative action in college admissions earlier this year ensures ALL students are treated equally,” added Rep. Plumer. “Our legislation codifies that ruling here in Wisconsin and it is good to see this important reform move forward today.”

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