



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2018

Contact: Sen. Jennifer Shilling, 608-266-5490

Rep. Gordon Hintz, 608-266-2254

Another Attack on Local Control by Wisconsin Republicans

MADISON, WI – Today, the state Assembly passed AB 748. Under the bill, local ordinances must strictly conform to statewide standards in various aspects of employment regulation. The bill has been opposed by numerous groups supportive of local governments, faith-based groups, and local trade unions. The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday and now heads to the Governor's desk. Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) and Assembly Democratic Leader Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) released the following statement regarding the passage of the bill.

“Local governments best understand the needs of their communities. Applying a one-size-fits-all approach doesn’t account for the unique circumstances of varying counties and municipalities. What works for La Crosse might not be the right fit in West Bend,” said Sen. Shilling. “It’s time we drop the façade that Wisconsin Republicans have any respect for local control. This heavy handed, big government policy limits our local governments’ ability to protect workers and keep up with ever-changing workforce demands.”

In addition to the attack on local control, AB 748 also places criminal penalties “on state and local governments, and their employees, from requiring any person to waive the person’s rights under state or federal labor laws as a condition of any other approval by the state or local governmental unit.” Under the bill the penalty could be a \$10,000 fine, imprisonment of up to 9 months, or both.

“Not only are Republicans tying the hands of municipalities and counties as they try to govern, they’re willing lock up public servants for setting terms of employment that are best suited for their community, said Rep. Hintz. “This bill is just one more example of Wisconsin Republicans choosing to meddle in the politics of local government. It’s time we start prioritizing proven, effective policies that will allow our communities and Wisconsin families to innovate and thrive.”

###