



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 23, 2023

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### **Rep. Emerson Statement on Anti-Book Banning Bill**

MADISON – Yesterday, the 2023 Free Speech Week (FSW) came to a close. FSW honors both freedom of speech and freedom of press. These are both foundational pieces of American democracy. However, these freedoms have been under attack as government, and government-funded institutions continue to ban books and media.

Representative Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) issued the following statement:

“I am proud to have authored and introduced an Anti-Book Banning bill during Free Speech Week. This bill prevents government funded institutions from banning access to books or other media on the grounds of ideas presented in the book or media or ideals of the creators of the books or media.

“The banning of books in libraries and schools directly targets the freedoms that our democracy is founded on and restricts access to diverse perspectives and values. All ages benefit from the knowledge books have to offer in schools and in libraries, but it is in particular, an injustice to hide valuable ideas and information from children, simply on the grounds of a difference of opinion. It is our responsibility to cultivate and encourage a well-informed public.

“Similar legislation has already become law in Illinois and California. Here in Wisconsin, it is critical to put an end to governmental censorship, and set an important precedent for future generations.

“It’s a shame we even have to discuss book bans in a free country in 2023, but it is important to the future of democracy in this state, that these issues are confronted. I am proud to work on this bill and will continue to support legislation that encourages freedom of thought and creates an informed society.”

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