



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2015

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Rep. Spreitzer strongly opposes gutting campaign finance law

MADISON – Today, Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) spoke out strongly in opposition to a Republican led effort to rewrite Wisconsin history and gut Wisconsin’s campaign finance laws. AB 387 is a complete rewrite of Chapter 11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which covers campaign donation limits, disclosure and reporting requirements, and coordination between candidates, political parties, and independent groups.

“The Republican-led effort to scrap Wisconsin’s proud tradition of clean, open government and stringent campaign finance and ethics laws is shameful,” Rep. Spreitzer said. “Under the guise of protecting free speech, this proposal opens the floodgates and allows more money to flow into the pockets of politicians as fast and as often as special interests can write a check.”

AB 387, for the first time in Wisconsin history, will allow corporations to give unlimited funds to political parties and legislative campaign committees. The proposal would also allow individuals to spend unlimited amounts of money campaigning without having to tell anyone who they are.

“The corrupting influence of money in politics is well-known and well-documented,” Rep. Spreitzer noted. “Because Republicans know how unpopular this proposal will be to all but their big money contributors, they are ramming this bill through the legislature with alarming speed.”

AB 387 was introduced October 8, received a public hearing this Tuesday, and was fast-tracked out of committee just yesterday. The public hearing included testimony on two other controversial proposals, distracting from much needed attention on this bill. The committee also approved a never-before-seen 18 page amendment introduced by Speaker Robin Vos. AB 387 is scheduled for a vote in the Republican-controlled Assembly next week. In just shy of two weeks, Republicans will have unraveled 100 years of tradition.

“Neither the public nor their elected officials have had adequate time to review, analyze, or digest this proposal,” Spreitzer said. “This rush to gut our transparency laws reeks of Republican attacks on our open records laws earlier this summer. By any measure, substance or process, AB 387 is simply wrong for Wisconsin.”

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