



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dianne Hesselbein

79TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HESSELBEIN REACTS TO PARTISAN REDISTRICTING DECISIONS *SCOTUS RULES ON RUCHO V. COMMON CAUSE & LAMONE V. BENISEK*

MADISON – Today the United States Supreme Court ruled federal judges cannot intervene to mitigate extreme partisan gerrymandering. The ruling impacts two cases related to partisan redistricting: *Rucho v. Common Cause*, brought forth by Democrats challenging gerrymandering in North Carolina; and *Lamone v. Benisek*, brought forth by Republicans challenging Maryland gerrymandering. In the 5-4 decision the Supreme Court left it up to states to address partisan gerrymandering.

“I am deeply saddened the U.S. Supreme Court failed to make a clear ruling on the constitutionality of partisan redistricting. What is clear from the Supreme Court decision is partisan gerrymandering contradicts our democratic values,” said Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton).

Hesselbein continues to fight for a non-partisan redistricting process. Since being elected in 2012, she has co-authored non-partisan redistricting legislation, underscoring the important need for Wisconsin to pass laws ending the shameful practice of partisan gerrymandering.

“As long as there is inaction on the issue of extreme partisan gerrymandering, our democratic principles are endangered. I’ve said it many times: ‘Politicians should not be able to choose their voters--it should be the voters choosing their politicians!’ Unfortunately, Republican legislators in our state benefit from some of the most partisan legislative maps in the country, and changing this distortion of public will is not their priority, nor will they admit it is an issue to be addressed,” said Hesselbein.

Chief Justice John Roberts noted in his majority opinion: “Our conclusion does not condone excessive partisan gerrymandering. Nor does our conclusion condemn complaints about districting to echo into a void.” The U.S. Supreme Court may not condone partisan gerrymandering, but ironically, they will not presently take steps to eliminate the practice.

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