



CHRIS TAYLOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

For More Information, Contact:

Rep. Chris Taylor, 608-266-5342

Beware of Strings Attached

MADISON – After introducing unconstitutional “free speech” legislation earlier this year, today Speaker Robin Vos joined Governor Walker, JFC Co-Chairs Alberta Darling and John Nygren and other conservative leaders in announcing the new Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership at UW-Madison. This comes just days after the Charles Koch Foundation made a substantial donation to UW-Stout for the creation of “Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation.” The Koch Brothers are staunch conservatives and in 2012 donated nearly \$400 million to defeat Democrats at the ballot box.

UW-Madison’s world renowned Lafollette School of Public Affairs receives \$600,000/year. The Tommy G. Thompson Center will receive \$1.5 million/year in state funding.

Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) released the following statement:

“As the only state Democratic lawmaker that attends ALEC, I’m not surprised we are starting to see the deliberate, organized infiltration onto our UW Campuses by ultra-conservatives in Wisconsin, because it’s what I’ve been hearing about for years. They have starved our higher education system with record budget cuts and now are willing to fork over cash under the guise of “ideas” and “free speech.” If this was a bipartisan effort to truly promote innovation and free speech, I would have thought that Speaker Vos would have taken his own advice and picked up the phone to work with his Democratic colleagues who actually represent UW-Madison.

“While I trust Chancellor Blank and her leadership, with this GOP crew in charge and Speaker Vos’ very partisan comments today, there are always strings attached. There are several important questions that remain and my colleagues and constituents can be rest assured that I will continue to actively monitor the situation.”

###

State Capitol: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

(608) 266-5342 ♦ E-mail: rep.taylor@legis.wi.gov ♦ Web: <http://taylor.assembly.wi.gov>