



For Immediate Release
June 28, 2016

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Rep Shankland: Walker's NFL free agent analogy doesn't make sense for Wisconsin's schools

Madison – Representative Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) joined other Democratic legislators in scoffing at comments made by Governor Scott Walker at a private, invite-only listening session in western Wisconsin earlier this week, where he likened NFL free agency to how Wisconsin should pay our state's teachers. Here is a copy of the governor's remarks:

"If the Green Bay Packers pay people to perform and if they perform well on their team, (the Packers) pay them to do that...They don't pay them for how many years they've been on the football team. They pay them whether or not they help (the Packers) win football games." - Gov. Scott Walker

Rep. Shankland noted some inconsistencies in the governor's logic:

- Unlike NFL teams that [often find themselves millions of dollars below their designated salary cap](#), our neighborhood public schools remain cash-strapped under Governor Walker's administration. The idea that public school districts have unallocated piles of cash laying around that they can give to their top-performing teachers is simply unbelievable.
- NFL players have [comprehensive representation from union officials to protect and bargain for their wages and benefits](#). Governor Walker and legislative Republicans gutted the bargaining power of educators and other public employees in our state in Walker's first term as governor.
- NFL players making the league's minimum salary do [see an increase in salary based on the number of years they have been in the league](#), regardless of whether or not they make an impact on the field. Also, the NFL does pay their athletes regardless of whether or not they win games. Ask the Chicago Bears about this.

Additionally, Rep. Shankland questioned why the governor's salary isn't based on merit pay if he is such an advocate of the idea. The governor's six-figure salary could potentially decrease if his job performance were put through a comprehensive merit-based review, especially given his notably low poll numbers and the fact he spent the majority of last summer running a lackluster and losing presidential campaign outside of Wisconsin.

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