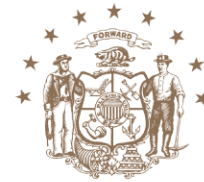




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



For Immediate Release

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DEMOCRATS RELEASE URBAN EDUCATION TASK FORCE MINORITY REPORT

MADISON –Today, Democrats on the Speaker’s Task Force on Urban Education, led by vice-chair Representative Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb), released their minority report. This report contained many recommendations that minority members wished to see included in the original report, released by the chair in June 2016, to address education problems in the state’s urban areas.

“As advocates for strong public education, we as Democrats did not find the Chair’s report, authored completely by Legislative Council, acceptable. The Chair’s report failed to offer any substantive or even tangible recommendations to address issues facing our urban areas” said Rep. Pope. “In hindsight it was clear that the majority party had no intention of taking any meaningful action and used this task force as a way to bolster certain members’ campaign credentials.”

The minority report emphasizes the impact of poverty and its effects on the students in urban settings and offers solutions that would mitigate these effects. It also stresses the need for early childhood engagement and interventions in order to prevent achievement gaps before they happen.

“This report offers commonsense solutions to target the causes of urban education problems not the symptoms. Paying urban workers a living wage, implementing the “Fair Funding” formula and bolstering already-successful assistance programs are all steps in a larger approach we must take to ensure that students in Wisconsin’s urban settings have the same opportunities and success as students in other areas,” Rep. Pope said. “By putting low-income and at-risk students on the right track early in their development, we create pathways for success that will help foster college-ready graduates and workers who will contribute to the future of Wisconsin.”

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