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GARD WANTS TO ENTER LEGAL ARRANGEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE STATE WITH EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION

Speaker aligns himself with anti-SpongeBob movement

Madison – State Representative Mark Pocan (D-Madison) today sharply criticized Assembly Speaker John Gard (R-Peshtigo?) for trying to allow a radical Christian legal organization to help defend the state's refusal to pay health benefits to domestic partners of straight and gay employees. Gard sent a ballot to members of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization yesterday asking them to vote to allow the Alliance Defense Fund to work on a lawsuit regarding domestic partnership benefits to state employees. As the Assembly is not a party to the lawsuit and the case is currently being reviewed by the State Attorney General, it is unclear what authority Gard has in this matter.

"This is absurd even for John Gard," said Pocan. "I can't believe Gard thinks Wisconsin should be legally represented by the same people that attacked SpongeBob SquarePants as being gay. If bringing in fringe extremists who think cartoon characters are gay is the only way to fight providing health care benefits to Wisconsin's families, it is a sad day in Wisconsin."

Focus on the Family's leader and co-founder of the Alliance Defense Fund, James Dobson, attacked the cartoon character popular with children as being gay during a January 19th black-tie dinner in Washington, D.C. Dobson has also called for a "second civil war" in the United States.

Other outrageous statements and actions by ADF leaders include:

- The Alliance Defense Fund solicited funds on Christian Radio with an ad claiming, "Pro-life demonstrations may soon be legal. ...Religious broadcasting may soon be censored. Hiring homosexuals in Christian Schools, churches and even as Sunday School teachers may soon become law of the land. ...Don't let Christianity become a crime."
- Sears, the President and CEO of the Alliant Defense Fund argues that the constitutional guarantee against state-sponsored religion is actually designed to "shield" the church from federal interference -- **allowing Christians to take their rightful place at the head of the government**. He along with their Vice President Craig Osten, expanded on themes from "The Homosexual Agenda: Exposing the Principal Threat to Religious Freedom," which **tie homosexuality to pedophilia** and other "disordered sexual behavior."
- **"Our job is to reclaim America for Christ, whatever the cost."** *Rev. D. James Kennedy, also a co-founder of the Alliance Defense Fund*

"John Gard is clearly obsessed with gays and lesbians. I know of few people who so regularly think about sex. Perhaps he should look more closely at those issues rather than aligning the State of Wisconsin with fringe hate groups to gain political support for his fledgling Congressional race," said Pocan.