

# Rep. Quinn: Calls on Bewley to correct record

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**Madison** - Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Barron) released the following statement regarding Senator Janet Bewley (D-Mason) repeating claims about broadband funding that have been proven wrong:

*Democrats like to claim Governor Walker rejected federal money for broadband expansion, and that hurt rural Wisconsin students and families. However, we know that this is false. Wisconsin uses a public-private partnership model to make sure that everyone has a stake in our development, and the federal rules prohibited us from using federal money on partnership projects.*

*All the way back in February of 2016 I debated Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, explaining to him that this talking point was wrong. I even showed him testimony from the Executive Director of the Wisconsin State Telecommunication Association, explaining why taking the funds was never an option, regardless of who was Governor.*

*In May of 2017, Senator Bewley jumped on the band wagon and used the same false talking point. [I called her out at the time](#), explaining again that she had her facts wrong. Better yet, just a few months later in August of 2017, [PolitiFact published an article](#) that confirmed that Walker could not accept the federal money. Even professor Barry Orton, a left-leaning retired professor of telecommunications policy at UW-Madison, agreed that this was true.*

*But Bewley hasn't stopped. In fact, she used the same lie again just this week, in a quote to the Barron News-Shield.*

*Meanwhile, the last three budgets have increased funding for our state's broadband expansion program. In fact, I authored the budget amendment that called for more than \$15 million in funding for that program. Senator Bewley refused to vote for the budget, and thus voted against broadband funding.*

*It's one thing to make a mistake if you do not have all the correct information, but a mistake quickly turns into a lie when you continue repeating something you know is not true. I'm calling on Senator Bewley for the last time: admit to our district that your claims are false, stop using them, and stop politicizing broadband access.*