Rep. Ortiz-Velez: Official statement

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Today, I chose to enter a plea of No Contest to Disorderly Conduct, a Class B Misdemeanor. In exchange for my change of plea, the punishment the State recommended is a fine, which I will pay.

I am a proud Democrat. There were times when I broke from the directives of my fellow Democrats, because I chose to vote for bills that I believed were best suited for the constituents of my Assembly District. I voted for the Fair Maps proposed by Governor Evers and the budget supported by the Governor instead of the bills proposed by the Democratic Caucus. I cast my
vote for principle over party.

My voting choices caused a rift that has turned ugly and bitter. My constituents did not send me to Madison to litigate internal caucus disputes or to be distracted by the personal feuds—they sent me there to deliver results. I continue to focus 100% of my efforts for the people of the 8th Assembly District.

For the sake of the State's future, I hope my Democratic colleagues will work toward policies benefiting the people who sent us to Madison. We need to strive forward.

This entire situation began because I spoke with passion in defense of my late husband's memory and the legacy of all Latino Veterans. While my emotions were high and my words were blunt, my heart was—and always will be—with the families who have sacrificed for our country. On November 19th the Wisconsin Assembly, on a Bi Partisan basis, did honor Latino Veterans with AJR109.

I am achieving historic, unanimous bipartisan success for the State of Wisconsin. On February 20th, I was on the floor passing AB749/SB745, the DACA Occupational Licensing bill, ensuring our 'Dreamers' can finally work as the nurses, teachers, and professionals our economy needs.

I am protecting my ability to continue as your independent voice in the Capitol. My work for the 8th District has just begun, and I look forward to seeing the DACA legislation cross the finish line in the Senate and head to the Governor’s desk. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Rep. Ortiz-Velez