

Sen. Ratcliff: Statement on abrupt end to Senate floor session

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Madison, WI — Senator Melissa Ratcliff released the following statement regarding yesterday's abrupt conclusion of the Senate floor session when efforts were made to pull Senate Bill 444 (SB-444), which is regarding the unmasking of ICE agents, to the floor for consideration:

"I am deeply disappointed that Wisconsin Legislative Republicans have not made it a priority to discuss the regulation of ICE agents in our state. Instead of allowing a full and transparent debate on SB-444, Republicans ended session abruptly and high-tailed it off the Senate floor. Regardless of where members stand on the issue of unmasking ICE agents, the people of Wisconsin expect their elected officials to show up, engage in thoughtful discussion, and cast votes in the open.

Ending the session prematurely denies both legislators and the public the opportunity to have a substantive conversation about a bill that has generated significant public interest and concern. Our responsibility is to deliberate, debate, and decide — not to avoid difficult conversations.

I remain committed to transparency, accountability, and ensuring that all legislation receives the fair and open process it deserves."

Senator Ratcliff emphasized that public trust in government depends on open proceedings and respectful engagement, especially on complex and contentious issues. Wisconsin residents deserve to hear free, fair, and open dialogue on the issues that matter most.