

FREDERICK P. KESSLER

12TH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, February 24, 2017

Contact: Rep. Fred Kessler (414) 840-3196 or (608) 266-5813

Kessler Statement on DOJ Decision to Appeal Ruling in Whitford v. Gill

(MADISON) - State Representative Frederick P. Kessler (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement today in response to the Wisconsin Department of Justice decision to appeal the court ruling in *Whitford v. Gill*.

"We knew that once the state was defeated in this case, their only choice would be to appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The decision to do so is not surprising."

"What is disappointing, however, is that the majority Republicans have already hired outside legal counsel to represent their interests in the case. The state must still respond to the district court's decision and they know that."

"So, while the Department of Justice will be utilizing its attorneys to fight the state's position in the case as it makes its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, legislative Republicans are costing state taxpayers additional money on the side in order to comply with the district court ruling."

"Rather than just learning their lesson and abiding by the district court's decision, legislative Republicans have instead decided to double-down on their foolish bet."

"It is not at all surprising that Republicans would want to fight the decision in *Whitford v. Gill*, given that it will likely be a precedent setting case. What is surprising, however, is their wanton misuse of taxpayer dollars to try and save their own hides."