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GOP's Sit Down and Shut Up Bill

Madison – Today the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities will hear testimony on AB 299, the so-called Campus Free Speech Bill. Rep. Anderson released the following statement on the bill:

“At its core, the Wisconsin Idea says that our universities and the knowledge they foster should benefit everyone in our state. To that end, our universities should be places of diverse viewpoints and open discussion that supports academic work across a vast array of fields. Our places of higher learning should welcome people across all cultures and political perspectives. These are the principles that make our schools great.”

“Unfortunately, the Campus Free Speech Bill does absolutely nothing to promote these principles. This bill is not about supporting free speech or discussion on campus. Frankly, it's about telling students and faculty to sit down and shut up. It hamstringing our universities from promoting public policy, while actively infringing on the 1st Amendment rights of its student body, faculty, and staff. It is a clear attempt to punish and discredit the UW system for the behavior of students at other universities. We should be focusing on supporting the Wisconsin Idea at our universities and lowering the debt burden for our students, not punishing them for news headlines halfway across the country.”