

JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release June 22, 2017 Contact: Rep. James Edming (608) 266-7506

Rep. Edming Backs Campus Free Speech Act

Legislation Protecting the Freedom of Expression on College Campuses Passes the Assembly

MADISON – Rep. James Edming (R-Glen Flora) backed legislation aimed at protecting the freedom of expression on college campuses in Wisconsin.

"The right to speak freely is one of the most important rights we have as Americans," said Rep. Edming. "College campuses should be places where students can hear all kinds of different ideas, form their own opinions, and express those opinions freely."

The Campus Free Speech Act, <u>Assembly Bill (AB) 299</u>, directs the UW Board of Regents to adopt a policy on freedom of expression for every campus. The bill also creates disciplinary measures for students who violently disrupt the free speech of others.

"We cannot allow the freedom of speech to be shut down by protestors just because they do not agree with the views others are expressing," said Rep. Edming. "This bill sends a clear message that free and open debate is encouraged on Wisconsin's university campuses."

AB 299 was approved by the Assembly and now moves on to the Senate for further consideration.

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