

September 18, 2019

Robin Vos

Assembly Speaker

State Capitol

P.O. Box 8953

Madison, WI 53708-8953

Via Priority Mail

Dear Speaker Vos,

Representative Jimmy Anderson has retained Disability Rights Wisconsin to assist him with obtaining needed accommodations and modifications related to his disability. We are reiterating his earlier request.

I understand that Representative Anderson has communicated with you previously regarding his specific requests:

1. To be allowed to use the speaker phone system being used by the State Senate to attend committee hearings and executive sessions on those rare occasions when he is unable to attend in person;
2. To no longer hold overnight floor sessions unless there is an emergency purpose for doing so;
3. To hold all committee hearings and non-emergency floor sessions during reasonable hours.

While Representative Anderson is asking for these accommodations and modifications for himself, he is also asking for them knowing that they may well be beneficial to others with disabilities, both fellow legislators and constituents.

You have previously responded that you cannot change assembly rules by fiat. Representative Anderson did try to address items 1, 2, and 3, above by working through the Assembly Memorandum of Understanding and presenting them as part of the Democratic Ask but the proposed changes were rejected by Republican Leadership, i.e., rejected by you.

Representative Anderson's requests are not for rule changes that change policy for all legislators both with and without disabilities, but as accommodations specifically to accommodate Representative Anderson's disability.

MADISON

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Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703

608 267-0214
608 267-0368 FAX

MILWAUKEE

6737 West Washington St.
Suite 3230
Milwaukee, WI 53214

414 773-4646
414 773-4647 FAX

RICE LAKE

217 West Knapp St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

715 736-1232
715 736-1252 FAX

disabilityrightswi.org

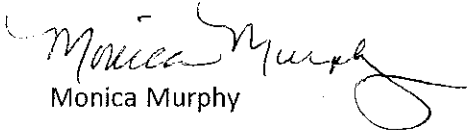
800 928-8778 consumers & family

It would appear that you are able to make such an accommodation as in the past you have allowed Representative Anderson to attend task force meeting by phone when they hold hearings outside of Madison. Additionally, you offered to provide a videographer to record committee meetings to share with Representative Anderson. If you have the authority to authorize a videographer, why not a speaker phone?

We believe that your actions and inactions violate the Americans with Disabilities Act, among other laws. We would like to resolve this matter short of litigation. Please respond to this letter by October 1st. If you continue to reject these reasonable requests necessitated by Representative Anderson's disability, Disability Rights Wisconsin will be forced to pursue legal action on Representative Anderson's behalf.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Monica Murphy

Managing Attorney

Cc; Representative Jimmy Anderson