SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release   Contact: Rep. Shae Sortwell
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Evers' Licensing Agency Absent Again from Meeting to Solve Backlog

Madison – Representative Shae Sortwell (R-Gibson) released the following statement today regarding the Department of Safety and Professional Services' attendance and transparency towards the legislature's non-partisan study committee created address the ongoing professional licensure backlog:

"Our study committee has now met three times, two of which Evers' licensing agency has refused to show up, including yesterday," said Rep. Sortwell. "They have also failed to provide answers to questions the committee submitted at the first meeting two-and-a-half months ago. This has led to frustrations among several members of the committee, including the non-partisan members of the public that serve. It appears the absenteeism from our governor has trickled down through his administration."

"We have to identify what the problem is and look at data to drive the direction of this committee…I don't feel like we actually received the data from the department in order to determine what the problem is…I don't think it's too much to ask from the department to equip us with that information," said Monica Johnson – Business Development Director.*

"It seems this type of improvement effort is missing the boat by not having a major DSPS presence on it…I don't think we can get as far as we can go without that," said Stanley Johnson – Professional Engineer.*

"To me, the biggest problem is DSPS…We are digging ourselves out of a hole. And we can't get anywhere. There has to be a way we force them to be transparent so we can get to the issues. Or, should we be considering are they the agency that we should be using to handle all of our licensing issues?" said Albert Walker – Business Owner/Barber.*

Yesterday's study committee meeting can be watched on WisconsinEye*. Representative Sortwell is available for comment.

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