

Republican action 'Height of Hypocrisy' as majority party continues to ignore student loan debt crisis, mass layoffs and child safety.

MADISON – Senate Republicans voted to pass Senate Bill 707 Tuesday while once again refusing to take up the Higher Ed, Lower Debt Bill and address Wisconsin's growing student loan debt crisis.



SB 707 was introduced by Republican Party leaders to block Winnebago County Executive **Mark Harris**, a Democratic candidate in the 18th Senate District, from serving in the Legislature.

"Families are tired of watching Republican politicians prioritize their campaign interests over the needs of Wisconsin communities and the middle class," said Senate Democratic leader **Jennifer Shilling** (D-La Crosse). "At a time when we should be working together to restore school funding, address the student loan debt crisis, create jobs and improve child safety, Senate Republicans want to limit the freedom of local voters. The fact that we're in the last days of session and this bill tops the Republican to-do list shows the height of their hypocrisy and the extent of their misplaced priorities."



Republican lawmakers had no problem with Gov. Walker running for office on the taxpayers' dime. No complaints were raised when conservative Rep. **Bob Ziegelbauer** served as Manitowoc County executive for more than six years. In fact, Republicans recently urged Sen. **Paul Farrow** to stay in office while simultaneously serving as Waukesha County Executive so he could vote on the state budget and support the Milwaukee Bucks arena deal.

“This is what we’ve come to expect from Republican lawmakers who have been focused on limiting access to public records, dismantling the Government Accountability Board and opening the floodgates for corporate campaign contributions,” **added Shilling**. “Republicans have their priorities backwards, and it’s time we act to strengthen the middle class and encourage economic opportunities rather than caving to partisan politics. Wisconsin families continue to stand with Democrats in calling for action on school funding, student loan debt relief and improved child safety.”

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Legislative writer Tony Palese contributed to this story.