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# JESSE KREMER

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 59<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**April 27, 2017**

### **Rep. Jesse Kremer Circulates Campus Free Speech Act**

**Madison, WI** – Late yesterday afternoon, after months of collaboration with several subject experts, Rep. Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum) circulated a bill titled the “Campus Free Speech Act”.

This policy, referencing the University of Chicago’s 2015 “Committee on Freedom of Expression” and Yale’s 1974 “Committee on Free Expression” findings, will ensure that freedom of expression is not only allowed, but encouraged at Wisconsin’s public universities and two year colleges.

Although the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment freedom of expression has been attacked by conservative and progressive ideologies since its ratification, the American university, where the free exchange of ideas should not only be encouraged, but paramount, has also decided that certain speech must be contained within “free speech zones” and popularly held political and social *truths* must not be challenged.

Interestingly, U.S. Supreme Court precedent:

*“leave no room for the view that, because of the acknowledged need for order, First Amendment protections should apply with less force on college campuses than in the community at large. Quite to the contrary, the vigilant protection of constitutional freedoms is nowhere more vital than in the community of American schools.”*

LRB-2408 would require the Board of Regents to implement a system wide policy based on the legislative framework that:

1. It is not the role of the institution to shield students from free expression.
2. Protests can occur as long as they does not interfere with the right to engage in or listen to expressive activity.
3. The campus is open to any invited speaker.
4. Students and faculty will not be coerced into expressing a belief on a public policy controversy of the day.
5. Disciplinary actions will be taken against those who infringe on freedom of expression - including expulsion.
6. Hearings related to disciplinary actions will have due process protections.
7. The creation of a “Council on Free Expression” that reports annually to the governor, legislature, Board of Regents and public on issues and successes related to freedom of expression issues.

Rep. Kremer issued the following comments following the bill’s timely release last evening:

*“In recent decades, attacks on free expression have become commonplace and in-vogue at institutions where ideals and truths should be challenged – the American university. This most recent degradation has been at the behest of the leftist elite who promote their own progressive, opinionated beliefs as gospel while touting a bumper sticker slogan of ‘coexist’. Ironically, free expression that has been*



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*removed from the college public square in an attempt to shield young, apparently fragile, yet critically thinking adults as offensive, has by its very nature become offensive. Attempts to stifle certain types of expression through designated 'Free Speech Zones' or 'Bias Response Protocols' insult the very intelligence of all college students and demean the academic community as a whole."*

He went on to state:

*"This bill will continue to ensure that free speech is not only welcome, but encouraged throughout Wisconsin academia."*

For more information....

Rep. Kremer Opinion on the Subject: ["Campus Free Speech: The Pillar of a Democracy"](#)

Rep. Kremer represents the 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly District which includes Southern Calumet, Western Sheboygan, Northern Washington and Eastern Fond du Lac Counties. Rep. Kremer's office will continue to be located at 17 West in the Wisconsin State Capitol, and he can be reached at (608) 266-9175 or by e-mail at [Rep.Kremer@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Kremer@legis.wisconsin.gov). His legislative website can be found at [www.RepKremer.com](http://www.RepKremer.com).

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