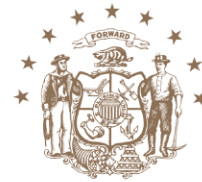




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2017

Contact: Rep. Sondy Pope

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REP. POPE: WI INSTITUTE FOR LAW & LIBERTY MANUFACTURES OWN FAVORABLE CONCLUSIONS

MADISON, Wis. – Representative Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb), the ranking member on the Assembly Committee on Education, responded to a release from the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) that claims "overwhelmingly" favorable outcomes of the Milwaukee Voucher Program.

"WILL continues to use flawed studies to push their preferred policies," said Rep. Pope. "Name dropping Governor Thompson and John Witte does not add credibility or truth to their overwhelmingly flawed methods."

The studies presented by WILL were conducted by WILL researchers without any peer review. This is not consistent with how academic and scientific studies are typically presented. Due to the lack of review, any conclusions drawn from the studies they cite must be evaluated carefully and with great caution. For example, WILL's most recent study was [reviewed and refuted](#) by the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado-Boulder as the study's approach and methods were found to be problematic.

"Presenting studies that use proprietary statistics and data is not an 'Apples to Apples' discussion about how effective or ineffective voucher programs are," Rep. Pope said, "Academic integrity is the core of an educated society and we are all responsible for upholding that idea. We can disagree on policy, but distorting facts to adhere to a prescribed agenda harms everyone."