



# CINDI DUCHOW

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Representative Duchow Commends Assembly for Supporting Military Members**

**Madison, WI** – During the Assembly floor session Tuesday, January 23, the Assembly unanimously passed AB 769 on a voice vote. This legislation provides more protections for military members who are also students.

Representative Cindi Duchow, the original author of the bill, was happy to see the bill continue to move through the legislative process and provided the following statement:

“Because of their sacrifice, I believe it is important to assure our military members are treated with respect and are getting the services they need,” said Rep. Duchow. “When these service members are called into active duty, current law protects their employment status. Unfortunately, current protections for service members who are also college students are not as clear. I am committed to changing this.”

Specific to Wisconsin, National Guard members may be called into state active duty to respond to natural disasters, public disturbances and other emergencies, at any time. If a call to active duty comes during the academic year, activated students risk potential financial loss since they are not always entitled to a refund of tuition or room and board fees.

“Senator Duey Stroebel and I have worked together on this bill in order to provide protections necessary to help our National Guard and Reserve military members who are also students,” Rep. Duchow said. “Some of the protections included in the bill are eliminating the requirement that protections apply only if the time of service exceeds 30 days, requiring all state schools to give service members the option of a refund or reenrollment for no additional cost and requiring schools to give service member students the chance to accelerate completion of a class.”

AB 769 is now in the Senate awaiting an executive session.

Rep. Duchow’s video remarks are available at the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak6dgrdvkXU&feature=youtu.be>

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*Representative Duchow represents the 99<sup>th</sup> Assembly District which includes the communities of Chenequa, Delafield, Dousman, Hartland, Merton, Nashotah, Oconomowoc Lake, Ottawa, and Wales; and portions of Genesee, North Prairie, Oconomowoc, and Summit.*