



JOE SANFELIPPO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0620
FAX: (608) 282-3615
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0015
Rep.Sanfelippo@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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Contact:

Rep. Joe Sanfelippo
Rep.Sanfelippo@legis.wi.gov
608.266.0620

Rep. Joe Sanfelippo on Governor Evers's Misaligned Military Priorities

Madison, Wis. – Representative Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin) issued the following statement today regarding Governor Evers's recent policies undermining Wisconsin's National Guard and military veterans:

I am deeply troubled by a number of Governor Evers's recent policy changes with respect to how we treat our active military and service veterans here in Wisconsin. It is becoming increasingly clear, from his words and deeds, that Governor Evers is willing to politicize both our state's active duty service members, as well as our many veterans, in service of advancing an agenda that is out of line with our state's values. For instance, I strongly disagree with Governor Evers's decision last month to withdraw our Wisconsin National Guard troops from their mission to the border as part of a protest of the President's declaration of a national emergency. National politics is immaterial to this issue: our Wisconsin National Guard troops have been deployed to the southern border by both Republican Scott Walker and Democrat Jim Doyle. These governors deployed our troops in response to requests from Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, as well as from Democratic presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. All of these leaders recognized that there was an important mission on our southern border and that our troops were needed to help support the border staff. No one has politicized our Guard troops the way Governor Evers is doing right now. The federal government provides the vast majority of the funding for our Wisconsin National Guard, and the Guard's failure to complete the mission puts future funding in jeopardy. The conditions that necessitated these past deployments remain, and I strongly urge the Governor to stop using our Guard troops to score cheap political points.

To make matters worse, in reviewing the Governor's recent proposed budget, I am particularly struck by his proposal to reduce university tuition for non-citizens, including illegal immigrants. Under the Governor's proposal, for a non-citizen to qualify for in-state tuition, they would only have to show residency in Wisconsin for three years. Conversely, for a military veteran to receive tuition benefits in Wisconsin, they must demonstrate five years of residency, prove their military service, and maintain a minimum GPA in school. Whatever the virtues may be of providing lower university tuition to non-citizens, it seems obvious that we should not be holding our military veterans -- who have risked their lives in service to our country and state -- to a higher standard than non-citizens. Wisconsin has always valued the service of our military veterans, which is why we have consistently had the best GI benefits in the country. This proposal of the Governor's shocks me in how it reflects his misaligned priorities. I call upon Governor Evers to consider the message to the military that his future policy proposals send.

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The [15th Assembly District](#) includes most of West Allis and the Northern half of New Berlin.