



# CHRIS KAPENGA

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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## **Governor Evers Sides with Agitators, Blocking Board of Regents Free Speech Policy**

**Madison, WI** — On Friday afternoon, [the Associated Press reported](#) that Governor Evers will kill a plan by UW-System Regents that would ensure free speech rights are protected on college campuses across Wisconsin. In response, Senator Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) released the following statement:

“It is unfortunate that Gov. Evers is choosing to preemptively shut down this important policy. Clearly, he has no interest in affirming the ability to freely exchange ideas on our college campuses without the fear of intimidation or disruption. Gov. Evers has consistently shown a record of limiting free speech protections critical to the continued success of our students.”

Earlier this session, Senator Kapenga and Representative Cody Horlacher (R-Mukwonago) introduced [legislation](#) that would direct the UW Board of Regents to implement a policy on free expression which states it is not the role of an institution to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment and that students and faculty have the freedom to discuss anything as permitted by the First Amendment. It also states that any person lawfully on campus may protest or demonstrate, but actions that interfere with the expressive rights of others are subject to sanction.

“Free speech and open debate are foundational principles of the college experience and a cornerstone of the Wisconsin idea. When intimidation, threats, and organized disruption are used in the name of free speech, it violates these principles. The Governor says he doesn’t support negative consequence for these actions. Society must show young adults that we will hold them accountable for poor behavior especially when it impedes the rights of others.”

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*Senator Kapenga represents the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District, which covers most of central Waukesha County and Lake Country.*