



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
Christine Sinicki
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Open Letter to the Members of the Assembly Republican Caucus

Madison —

Oct 11, 2019

“To the Members of Assembly Republican Caucus:

“I believe that your leadership has done a lot of damage to this institution in the last decade, but the events yesterday in our house will leave a stain that will take years to fade away. It was truly stunning to see a disabled person's needs held hostage in order to leverage more political concessions from the party already in the minority.

“In the meantime, those of you in the rank and file kept quiet for months, while your leadership turned Rep. Jimmy Anderson's requests for disability accommodations into political volleyball. None of you had the courage to stand up to leadership and speak out during that time or on the floor yesterday. And, only one courageous member of your caucus had the guts to vote against your leadership.

“Yesterday, your silence forced our colleague to explain publically his daily toileting routine, something that no one should ever have to do. Your silence also forced him to explain and relive the day that changed his life forever, the day he lost his entire family and his own mobility. Not only was that inhumane, but one of your members actually laughed about it during Rep. Anderson's floor speech.

“And, those of you in your caucus who have family members with disabilities and who call yourselves disability advocates, should reexamine what that title means. To be a disability advocate means you advocate for all people, not just your own children.

“I hope your actions, and lack of action, haunt you, and that every time you look in the mirror you feel regret and shame. Even then, you will never have to experience what you put Rep. Anderson through during this whole long debacle. On the other hand, you will also never experience the courage and stamina he has shown in the face of extreme hardship and opposition. We can all only hope that in similar circumstances, we could be as brave.

“Rep. Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District”

#

DISTRICT: 3132 S. INDIANA, MILWAUKEE, WI 53207 • (414) 481-7667
STATE CAPITOL: P.O. BOX 8953, MADISON, WI 53708 • (608) 266-8588 • FAX: (608) 282-3620
TOLL-FREE: 1-888-534-0020 • EMAIL: REP. SINICKI@LEGIS.WI.GOV

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER