



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2019

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‘Families First?’ Not for Wisconsin Assembly GOP

Rep. David Crowley (D-Milwaukee) made the following statement regarding Wisconsin Assembly Republicans proposed rule change.

“The majority party wants you to think that they are being accommodating and benevolent in allowing Representative Anderson to call in to meetings. If they were being accommodating, though, would it have taken seven months to get to this point? If they were in the business of being accommodating, would they schedule over Black Caucus events? Black and Latino Caucus events? The fact is that they have done all these things. Saying that this is an ‘accommodation’ is a clear smokescreen; they are not interested in being accommodating. All they are interested in is swallowing up as much power as they possibly can.

“I am about to be a father for the third time. To me, having and raising a family is the most important thing I will ever do. A close second, though, is being a member of the Wisconsin Legislature. I have done my best to be the best father and husband I can be while also serving my constituents to the best of my ability. The unconscionable rule changes proposed by the Assembly Republicans today would rob me of my ability to be the man my family needs me to be, and rob my constituents of their voice in the Legislature.

“The little-known secret of your legislators is that they are people too. The birth of my daughter will be among the happiest and most meaningful days of my life – but because of this latest power grab, I may be forced to miss it. The biggest rule change would allow the Assembly unlimited attempts to override a veto, whenever they may want to call such a vote. The rule would require all legislators in the minority party to be present any time the Assembly is in session, or else face the Legislature overriding any veto from a Governor who the people of Wisconsin elected. We would be forced to miss births, deaths, birthdays, family emergencies – all of the things that family life requires of us – by those who would try to take advantage of these life events.

“The other option is equally untenable: the people who I represent would be robbed of their voice. As a member of the party that is currently in the minority, all that those constituents have in the Legislature is my voice. Depriving them of that is immoral, dishonest, and un-American. I would ask my Republican colleagues to rethink this blatant power grab, allow us to do our best to serve our families and our constituents, and respect the voice of the people of Wisconsin.”

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