



CINDI DUCHOW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 99th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-3007
Toll-Free (888) 534-0099

Rep.Duchow@legis.wi.gov
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2020

Contact: Rep. Cindi Duchow
(608) 266-3007

Rep. Duchow Votes to Protect National Guard Students

Madison, WI – Today the Wisconsin State Assembly passed bi-partisan legislation authored by Rep. Cindi Duchow (R-Delafield) that provides protections to students who also serve in the Wisconsin National Guard should they be called into active duty. Rep. Duchow joined her legislative colleagues in unanimously passing Assembly Bill 361.

“I am proud we were able to come together to once again support our military members who sacrifice so much to serve our state and country,” Rep. Duchow said. “Pursuing an education while serving in the military is challenging in and of itself so these individuals should not have to worry about their academic standing or financial future if they’re called into active duty. It is important these brave men and women are treated fairly and are afforded the flexibility and services they need.”

In the state of Wisconsin, approximately 10,000 men and women serve in the Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard and at any point in time, these individuals may be called into state active duty to respond to natural disasters, public disturbances and other state and national emergencies. According to the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, approximately 25% of these National Guard members are students. There are robust protections for those who must leave their job to serve, but protections for members pursuing an education are much weaker.

“When our service men and women are called into active duty, current law protects their employment status but the same cannot be said for their academic status,” Rep. Duchow said. “If a call to active duty comes during the academic year, these students potentially face great financial loss since they are not always entitled to a reimbursement of the tuition and room and board fees they will not be using. Current law also falls short in protecting those at all types of higher education institutions, trade schools and post-secondary schools in our state and only affords protections to those whose orders are at least 30 days.”

AB 361 assists National Guard students by ensuring protections apply to all calls to service including those less than 30 days; requiring all post-secondary schools, trade schools and institutions of higher education to give service members the option of reimbursement for tuition and pro-rated room and board fees or re-enrollment for no additional cost in the next available offering of that class; holding students harmless for re-registration or re-enrollment; and requiring these institutions to give service member students the chance to accelerate complete of a class if that class is scheduled to be concluded within 30 days of the initial call to active duty.

###

Representative Duchow represents the 99th 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.