

Democrats Want to Amend Divisive “Right to Work” Bill in Assembly Labor Committee

Written by Wisconsin Assembly Democrats
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Public testimony shows the need to amend a bill that will drive down wages, hurt Wisconsin’s middle class.

MADISON – On Tuesday, the Democratic members of the Assembly Committee on Labor called on Rep. Andre Jacque (R-DePere), the committee chair, to hold an executive session to allow for committee amendments to Assembly Bill 61 – the so-called “Right to Work” bill. Rep. Jacque has so far refused to do so, even after hearing hours of testimony yesterday in opposition to this divisive legislation.

“We heard hours and hours of testimony from workers, business owners and others who told us how ‘Right to Work’ is wrong for Wisconsin,” Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee) said. “Republicans are already trying to unnecessarily rush this bill through in an extraordinary session in less than two weeks – and cut out the public in the process. The least Rep. Jacque could do is hold an executive session to give us a chance to amend this bill and make it less harmful for our economy, our workers and our middle class.”

“Labor Committee Republicans refusing to take any amendments makes a mockery of the people who spent all day traveling, testifying and attending the hearing and telling us about the damage ‘Right to Work’ would cause to their lives and livelihood,” Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine) said. “Allowing for public input shouldn’t just be about checking a box. It should be about thoughtfully considering our citizens’ feedback on this legislation and at least considering amending the bill.”

“So-called ‘Right to Work’ will drive down wages for our workers and hurt Wisconsin’s middle class. And it will take freedom away from workers and private businesses, including 400 contractors and companies who have joined together in strong opposition,” Rep. Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) said. “We are again calling on Rep. Jacque to do the right thing by allowing for committee amendments so we can have a real debate about this bill.”

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There is still an opportunity for the public to voice their opposition to the divisive "Right to Work" bill. People can sign the petition at RTWisWrong.com to let Governor Walker and the Republicans know that “Right to Work” is wrong for Wisconsin.