

Committee Vote on 'Higher Ed Lower Debt Bill' Needed

Written by GBP Staff

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Sen. Hansen and Rep. Mason call for action after poll shows 61% of Wisconsin residents support ability to refinance student loans.

MADISON - Responding to a recent Marquette University poll showing 61% of Wisconsin residents support giving people the ability to refinance their student loan debt, State Senator **Dave Hansen**

(D-Green Bay) and State Representative

Cory Mason

(D-Racine) are calling for the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges to hold a vote on their Higher Ed/Lower Debt bill (HELD).



In a letter to committee chair State Senator Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) Sen. Hansen and Rep. Mason said support for HELD that would allow Wisconsin residents to refinance their student loan debt at lower interest rates shows the public is ahead of the Legislature on the issue:

“This week the Marquette Law School poll released results which indicated that 61% percent of Wisconsin citizens support an agency to refinance student loans and only 15 % oppose the concept. In light of this overwhelming support we believe that Senate Bill 194 deserves to receive a vote in the committee and before the entire legislature.”

Since the legislation was first introduced in 2013 those who have student loan debt in Wisconsin has grown from 753,000 to 815,000. The average loan debt for someone who obtained a bachelor's degree has increased from just over \$22,000 to \$28,400. Total student debt in Wisconsin is over \$19.3 billion.

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