



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REP. SUDER BLASTS MADISON DEMOCRAT'S PLAN TO RESTORE VOTING PRIVILEGES FOR CONVICTED FELONS

Northern Lawmaker Says Proposal to Allow Murderers, Rapists, and Thieves the Ability to Vote Upon Leaving Prison is 'Reckless and Irresponsible'

Madison...State Representative Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) blasted a proposal today offered by Rep. Joe Parisi, a democrat from Madison, that would restore voting privileges for all convicted felons, including murderers, rapists, child predators, and thieves the same day they are released from state prisons. Suder said the proposal to allow ALL criminal offenders same day voting rights upon their release from prison shows a clear difference between Madison's liberal democrats and the Assembly Republicans who are working to restore accountability in our voting systems by passing the Voter ID bill. The lawmaker said he will work with his colleagues in the State Assembly to prevent the ridiculous proposal from seeing the light of day.

"These criminals have killed, raped, and preyed on the innocent, yet some democrats want to restore their voting privileges the moment they leave the prison gates," stated Suder. "This is a reckless and irresponsible proposal that rewards felons by giving them the ability to vote even before their probation or parole is completed."

Under current law, criminals who are convicted of a felony offense automatically lose their voting privileges until after they either fully complete their parole, probation, or supervision period with the state or the Governor grants them a pardon. Suder said he supports the restoration of civil rights for felons after they prove that they can be a productive and law-abiding member of society. However, the lawmaker said in order for convicted felons to have their voting privileges restored, they should at the very least have to complete their probation or parole period without committing a new crime and fully compensate their victims for any restitution that may be owed.

"This bill would guarantee a newly released convicted felon the same voting rights and privileges as their victims," said Suder. "That's a slap in the face to victims which only serves to reward bad behavior."

As the former chairman of the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee, Suder said he would work with Rep. Joel Kleefisch (R-Oconomowoc) the new chairman of the committee and his Republican colleagues in the Assembly and Senate to kill this misguided proposal.

For more information on this issue, please feel free to contact Representative Suder at (888) 534-0069 or email him at Rep.Suder@legis.state.wi.us.