



Mark D. Gundrum

State Representative ✍ 84th Assembly District

***** For Immediate Release *****

DATE: AUGUST 11, 2003

For More Information, Contact:

Representative Mark D. Gundrum

(608) 267-5158 – Capitol

(414) 425-2556 – Home

(414) 313-3962 – Cell Phone

Rep.Gundrum@legis.state.wi.us

“Pay to Play” Ban Becomes Law

MADISON – This afternoon, Governor Doyle signed into law Assembly Bill 1, State Representative Mark Gundrum’s (R-New Berlin) proposal which clearly makes it illegal to directly exchange official legislative actions for campaign contributions.

“For decades Wisconsin has stood as a model for ethical government. Some of the allegations against state and local officials over the past year have put that reputation in jeopardy,” Gundrum said. **“When people think their elected officials’ votes are just going to the highest bidder, that’s when they lose faith in our system. This new law will make elected officials and candidates think twice before cutting deals for donations.”**

In January, Assembly Bill 1 passed the full Assembly on a unanimous vote. The bill enjoyed the same bi-partisan support in the State Senate, where it passed unanimously in June with one amendment. Gundrum said the amendment broadens the definition of “political party” so as to also prohibit the directing of campaign contributions to political parties outside the state in exchange for official action. Gundrum said the need for this amendment became apparent as concerns have been raised over the last few election cycles of money being directed to Democratic party organizations outside the state which were then funneled back into Wisconsin.

“Regardless of where the money is coming from - corporations, individuals, unions, special interest groups or Indian tribes, if you are a candidate running for office and promising to take some specific official action *if elected* in exchange for campaign contributions, that’s just as unethical as the person already holding office doing the same thing,” Gundrum said. **“I appreciate the Governor’s willingness to clearly prohibit both of these unethical practices and help us restore the integrity of our system.”**