



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
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To: Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations

From: Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Re: Statement on 2007 AJR 1 and SJR 5

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is committed to representative government as established by the constitutions of the United States and the state of Wisconsin. For this reason we register our concern regarding AJR 1 and SJR 5. While the proposed amendment purports to ban the partial veto of an appropriations bill, it fails to solve the basic problem of whether or not the Governor has the ability to change the intent of appropriations passed by the Legislature.

The current amendment continues to allow for deleting parts of a single sentence. Furthermore it would permit governors to delete larger portions of an enrolled bill as long as they do not "create a new sentence by combining parts of 2 or more sentences of the enrolled bill."

Our concern about the partial veto is not a partisan one. Governors of both parties have used the partial veto extensively. The laws that result from the exercise of the partial veto frequently contain new taxation and new programs that have not been considered or enacted by the Legislature. Whether or not we agree with the results of these vetoes, the fact remains that the people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in the Senate and Assembly are denied participation in the process.

This particular amendment attempts to address that failing. However, as it is written it would not eliminate the Governor's ability to create new programs or taxation through a partial veto in the final step of the budget process.