

TONY EVERS – TAKING CREDIT HE DOESN'T DESERVE

Tony Evers has offered nothing but bureaucratic excuses and false arguments in response to widespread criticism by parents, school districts, Governor Walker, and others of his failure to revoke the licenses of teachers who preyed on children. He has falsely claimed that he couldn't act because the law wouldn't let him, and then [falsely claimed that he "fixed" the problem](#). **However...**

- Republican legislators who led the charge have no recollection of Tony Evers being directly involved other than allowing agency bureaucrats to participate – **his claims that he played a role in changing the law are overblown and lacking proof.**
- Evers had established precedent for appearing before legislative committees to testify on bills that allowed bureaucrats to conduct studies – **but he didn't take time to testify in favor of removing bad teachers from classrooms.**
 - *He even had the audacity to participate in [a politically motivated press conference](#) at the Capitol just days before the 2011 SB 49 hearing that he chose not to attend.*

Evers' excuses don't add up, and it's time that he tells the truth about his (lacking) role in the Republican-driven law change that reinforced his authority.

2011 Senate Bill 49 Fact Sheet

- After Evers chose not to revoke the license of a Middleton teacher found commenting on the bodies of middle school girls and spreading pornography in the classroom, the state legislature was forced to intervene and change the statute to reinforce his authority and prevent him from failing to act again.
- This was a Republican-led initiative that Evers and Democrats later supported – the bill itself had zero Democrat cosponsors.
 - **Sponsors & Cosponsors:** *Senators Olsen, Leibham, Darling and Grothman; cosponsored by Representatives Kestell, Ziegelbauer, Bernier, Bies, Honadel, Jacque, Kerkman, Kleefisch, Krug, LeMahieu, Marklein, Mursau, A. Ott, Petryk, Pridemore, Spanbauer, Steineke and Strachota*
- Tony Evers himself did not demonstrate that this was even a priority of his. His agency registered in favor of the bill and testified in a perfunctory way, but Evers himself didn't testify as he has on other legislative priorities.
 - Evers himself has appeared at hearings numerous times previously for his actual legislative priorities, appearing in front of the legislature on:
 - [2009 SB 437](#) & [2009 AB 534](#) that authorized the state superintendent of public instruction to direct school districts to implement new curriculum.
 - [2009 SB 371](#) & [2009 AB 536](#) that authorized various education agencies to study each other's programs.
- In addition to legislative proceedings, there also is not evidence of Tony Evers meaningfully using his bully pulpit in his role of Superintendent of Schools to force public conversation of the issue.

NOTE: *At the SB 49 hearing Evers chose not to attend, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards testified that Evers [had the authority to revoke](#) the license of the Middleton teacher – stating that “the current license revocations statute permits but does not require revocation for this type of conduct” – meaning could have acted but did nothing.*