

**Alberta Darling**  
**Wisconsin State Senator**  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, VETERANS  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2003**

**SENATE BILL 42**

AGAIN, THANK YOU CHAIRMAN BROWN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF SENATOR DARLING. SENATE BILL 42 WAS THE ORIGINAL COMPANION BILL TO ASSEMBLY BILL 18, AUTHORED BY REPRESENTATIVE KRUG.

SENATOR DARLING BELIEVES THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD SHOULD BE GIVEN THE ABILITY TO DOWNSIZE ITSELF IF THE MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS WANT TO. AS YOU KNOW, THE SCANDALS OF 2002 LEFT THEIR MARK ON MILWAUKEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT. ONE OF THE LARGEST ISSUES VOTER VOICED THERE CONCERNS ABOUT WAS THE APPARENT WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY COMING FROM COUNTY GOVERNMENT. COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCOTT WALKER HAS VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR SB 42 AND WAS THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR OF THE LEGISLATION WHEN HE SERVED IN THE ASSEMBLY.

WITHOUT CHOOSING SIDES, OR GETTING INVOLVED IN COUNTY BUSINESS, SENATOR DARLING BELIEVES THE DECISION REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE BOARD SHOULD BE MADE AT THE BOARD LEVEL, BY ELECTED SUPERVISORS. THIS BILL WILL ALLOW THE BOARD OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY TO DOWNSIZE AND REDRAW THEIR DISTRICT MAPS ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS. CURRENT LAW ALLOWS THEM TO CHANGE DISTRICT BOUNDARYS ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS DURING THE CENSUS.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT REPRESENTATIVE KRUG'S BILL, AB18 HAS ALREADY BEEN PASSED BY THE FULL ASSEMBLY AND HAS BEEN AMENDED ONCE. WHILE BOTH BILLS ARE NO LONGER IDENTICAL, THEY BOTH WILL ACCOMPLISH THE SAME GOAL, WHICH IS, TO GIVE THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CHANGE ITS SIZE. I WILL LET REPRESENTATIVE KRUG SPEAK TO THE BENEFITS OF HER BILL IN A MOMENT, BUT I WANT TO EMPHASIS THAT SENATOR DARLING SUPPORTS AB18, IS A COSPONSOR OF AB 18 AND WILL VOTE FOR IT ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE IF AND WHEN IT IS SCHEDULED. SENATOR DARLING BELIEVES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE SHOULD TRUMP ANY ATTEMPT TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR THE ISSUE. SIMPLY PUT, SENATOR DARLING WANTS THE COMMITTEE TO KNOW THAT BECAUSE ASSEMBLY BILL 18 HAS ALREADY RECEIVED ASSEMBLY APPROVAL, SHE FULLY SUPPORTS ITS PASSAGE AS AMENDED.

WITH THAT SAID, I THANK YOU AGAIN CHAIRMAN BROWN FOR SCHEDULING THIS PUBLIC HEARING AND WOULD BE OPEN TO ANY QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE MAY HAVE ON SENATE BILL 42.