

17 January 2020

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
110 Main Street, Suite 215
Madison, WI 53701

RE: Petition 19-16 to Amend Wis. Stat. Chapter 802

Thank you for affording me with the opportunity to comment on Petition 19-16.

I represent Wisconsin's 60th District in the State Assembly and was principal author of 2017 Wisconsin Act 317 and 2019 Wisconsin Assembly Bill 705. Assembly Bill 705 would require a pro bono attorney to provide his or her state bar number only in contested cases. The purpose of Assembly Bill 705 was to address concerns raised by the petitioners, while simultaneously preserving 2017 Wisconsin 317's legislative intent of having attorneys reveal their involvement in non-routine cases, without requiring disclosure in the majority of pro bono cases.

I understand the petitioners' concerns and reasoning for wanting to restore Sec. 802.05(2M) to its prior iteration, which would allow volunteer attorneys to provide a greater level of pro bono services to those in need of representation. At the same time, we recognize the desire of others to have attorneys reveal their involvement in non-routine cases, while also protecting their anonymity in pro bono cases.

My office would be more than willing to work with the petitioners on both sides of this issue and the Supreme Court to develop a reasonable solution to this issue. Yesterday afternoon, I called James Goldschmidt, the lead petitioner, to discuss ways to make it more amenable to everyone involved.

I appreciate your consideration of this petition and my comments and look forward to working with you to further clarify this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

State Representative Rob Brooks