



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.  
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

## **PROFS Statement on Legislation Designed to Encourage Classified Research in the UW System (AB 729/SB 578)**

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, represents the UW-Madison faculty. PROFS is linked to the shared governance structure at UW-Madison, with the elected University Committee serving as the PROFS Board of Directors. PROFS is a non-profit organization funded through voluntary contributions from UW-Madison faculty, and is not a union.

PROFS appreciates and supports legislative efforts to create laws and infrastructure designed to bring more federal research money into the state. While UW-Madison is already a national leader in research, consistently ranking among the top universities in attracting federal funds, it certainly makes sense to make sure we are well-positioned for future success. In addition, some faculty have expressed an interest in pursuing classified research at the university. These are some of the reasons that PROFS supports AB 729/SB 578.

PROFS also supports AB 729/SB 578 because the legislation maintains the faculty's essential role in governance of the university. The legislation states: "The conditions for accepting the contracts and conducting the research are established pursuant to a process approved by the chancellor, in consultation with the faculty, of the institution at which the research is to be conducted."

The UW-Madison faculty remain strongly committed to academic freedom and preserving the shared governance structure at the university. The faculty are also strongly committed to graduate education and will be vigilant in protecting students' rights to publish and advance their scholarship. If this legislation is approved, we will continue to work with graduate students and academic staff to ensure that the processes of conducting research and creating intellectual property continue to meet the highest standards, as the people of Wisconsin have come to expect.

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