



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Senate Bill 423 Would Have Devastating Impact on Potentially Life-Saving Biomedical Research

November 2, 2017

PROFS, the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate, represents the interests of the UW-Madison faculty. The elected University Committee, the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, serves as PROFS Board of Directors.

Day in and day out, UW-Madison faculty bring worldwide acclaim to our state with cutting-edge research into birth defects, human development, diseases, and treatment. Patients and their families look with hope at our research into conditions like epilepsy, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and heart failure.

In conducting this important research, faculty are committed to maintaining the highest possible ethical standards. The university follows all applicable laws and goes beyond what federal regulations require.

Senate Bill 423 would have a devastating impact on UW-Madison's research enterprise. Not only would it make illegal the work of some of the world's top researchers, it would send a clear message across the globe that Wisconsin no longer values the biomedical research that has brought our state such positive attention.

Worst of all, it would tell patients and their families that their hopes for cures of serious illnesses are not important to the state. Instead of obstructing life-saving research, as Senate Bill 423 would do, the Legislature should be looking for ways to support the University's activities to find cures of the future.

The UW-Madison faculty encourage legislators to consider just how devastating this legislation would be. Choosing to go well beyond a well-thought-out federal policy is not in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Wisconsin and represents a major deviation from the reasonable nature of our citizens and leadership in the world.

The UW-Madison faculty recognize the strong feelings that many Wisconsinites have on both sides of the abortion issue. The reality is that this legislation will not resolve that debate. What this legislation will do is turn Wisconsin into an anti-scientific research island among the states.