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January 26, 2016

Senator Devin LeMahieu, Chair
Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government
Room 323 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Senator Chris Kapenga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government
Room 15 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Opposition to SB 533/ AB 723

Dear Committee Chairman LeMahieu and Vice Chair Kapenga:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents to express my opposition to SB 533/AB 723. Over the last six months, I have been working closely with Milwaukee County and community leaders to begin work on a fair and comprehensive plan to develop an exciting new Community Identification Card program (Muni ID). While we are still very much in the nascent stages of planning and analysis, SB 533 / AB 723 unfairly obstructs local government from studying the untapped potential of our residents.

The Muni ID program has the potential to become an invaluable tool for our residents, supporting some of our most vulnerable populations, uncovering potential efficiencies in consolidating efforts, and promoting the use of iconic community assets for all residents in Milwaukee County. I have attached a copy of the City of Milwaukee's resolution File #151081 that creates and defines the duties and intent of the joint task force and the Muni ID program for your review.

Misinformation has been circulated about our program; therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few important details. First, the Muni ID program is a joint effort between the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. Late last year, after many conversations with officials and stakeholders, the Common Council passed a resolution that authorized the creation of a joint task force charged with developing the framework and logistics of the Muni ID program. Unfortunately, since the introduction of this bill, we have been unable to even begin making appointments to the taskforce, as our resources have been dedicated to opposing this bill.

SI USTED TIENE UNA PREGUNTA O SOLICITA TRADUCCIÓN SOBRE ESTA CARTA, FAVOR DE COMUNICARSE AL 414-286-2861

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Secondly, both the City and County appropriated initial funds for this program, and those funds were assigned to the Muni ID program with the requirement that both the City and County approve a joint Memorandum of Understanding to clearly identify required components of the Muni ID program before any money would be expended. In fact, the City appropriated the \$150,000 into a Special Purpose Account, which cannot be expended until this memorandum is in place.

Also, this committee needs to be aware that the City of Milwaukee clearly delineated in the attached resolution that the Muni ID program, "...shall not provide assistance for those applying for State assistance, nor be considered a valid ID for voting purposes."

The fact remains that SB 533/AB 723 was introduced prematurely. Both the City and County took fiscally responsible steps to analyze, plan, and develop a Community ID program. We did not spend taxpayer dollars without careful protections. Instead, using the power of local government, we created an open process of deliberation and planning, through the Joint Task Force, that we believe will best serve the residents of Milwaukee County.

I urge this committee to oppose SB 533/AB 723. Thank you for your time. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 414-286-3762.

Sincerely,



Alderman José Pérez
12th District Alderman

Enclosure

Cc: Milwaukee Delegation