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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 17, 2011

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REP. MARK POCAN'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF UW ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Madison – In September, the racially-obsessed Center for Equal Opportunity (CEO), a small conservative think tank vigorously opposed to affirmative action and bilingual education, issued a study attacking UW-Madison's admissions policy. Today, Rep. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) convened the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities for an exclusive presentation by CEO. Below is a statement from Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison), a member of the committee, in support of UW-Madison's admissions policy:

"Today's hearing was a bust, with a non-academic from Virginia coming into our Capitol and telling us how to run our universities. The so-called expert defended an incomplete, incoherent report lacking any information on education quality, graduation rates or transfers. Instead, it was full of opinion based on ignorance of racial bias in this country.

"The UW-Madison admissions policy clearly states academic achievements are the most important factors in the admissions process. Today's exclusive briefing by a conservative organization was at best, ignorant and at worst, outright racist. To advocate the elimination of race as a factor in the higher education admissions process is to admit we've achieved complete equality in America. Based on the things I heard at today's hearing, I'm certain that is not the case. Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream and we should all be working toward it, not against it."