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WI Education Chair: Gov. Evers must lead

Madison – State Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Chair of the Education Committee, released the following response to last night’s State of the State Address:

“I appreciated hearing the governor’s thoughts on a variety of issues last evening, but the annual State of the State Address amounted to a 30-minute campaign commercial in which he took no responsibility for the failures of his administration and also ignored pressing issues facing our state.

Governor Evers’ incompetent administration of the unemployment compensation continues to this day. Legislative offices of both parties were inundated with desperate phone calls from constituents fearful of losing everything, because they couldn’t even get the Governor’s Department of Workforce Development to even answer the phone. Left out of the Governor’s speech was that before dismissing his DWD Secretary after a six months disaster, not once had the two even met to attempt to mitigate the problem.

Governor Evers must encourage schools to ‘follow the science’ and open their doors to daily, in-person instruction. As the previous head of schools in our state, he seems largely unconcerned with the alarming state of public education. Under his watch, Wisconsin has seen declining reading scores, and Wisconsin has the largest racial achievement gap in the nation. The Governor has exacerbated this problem by closing schools to in-person instruction last spring. Many schools have exclusively maintained this online status ever since, and it has surely taken a heavy toll on our students’ academic progress as well as mental, physical, and emotional well-being.

Finally, the vaccinations are here—if you can get them! The governor is asking the federal government for additional doses, but he has been unable to efficiently distribute our current supply, and he has no coordinated distribution plan, ranking our state among the worst in the Midwest. We now hear that the Evers administration will consider not prioritizing our law-abiding vulnerable senior citizens over prisoners.

I urge Governor Evers to accept the assistance being offered by the Legislature on these and many other issues for the good of our state.”

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