



GARY ALAN HEBL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Rep. Gary Hebl's Response to Governor Evers' Budget Address

(MADISON) –Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) released the following statement after Governor Evers 2021-23 budget address:

We have a governor that listens to the people he represents and not just the people that fund his campaigns, as we had for eight years before that. That is reflected in his budget- a budget that puts the priorities of everyday Wisconsinites ahead of deep pocketed donors.

Governor Evers budget addresses the real concerns from the people of this state. It helps families by dedicating \$140 million to childcare, establishing a small business retirement savings program, and creating a first-time homebuyers state savings account.

It prioritizes education, by restoring a commitment for the state to fund 2/3 of public education, increasing special education funding by more than \$700 million, and increasing funding for Wisconsin Technical Colleges.

It prioritizes Wisconsin small businesses and farms by allocating \$200 million to help Wisconsin small businesses, investing \$29 million for workforce development initiatives, and promoting agricultural innovation & farmer-led conservation.

It prioritizes workers by starting to increase Wisconsin's minimum wage eliminating the unnecessary one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits.

It prioritizes the health of Wisconsin residents by accepting the Medicaid expansion, which will allow more people in this state to have health care. It also aims to lower prescription drug costs and invests in Wisconsin's long term care infrastructure.

This is a budget that works to improve the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin- whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, or neither. It doesn't play favorites. Its goal is to make the lives of Wisconsinites better. Republicans will bristle because it doesn't line the pockets of their donors. But that's not what a budget is supposed to do.

Governor Evers is on the right track. He has introduced a bill with broadly popular policies. Anyone dismissing his budget as a "liberal wish list" is both out of touch with what the people of Wisconsin want and on the wrong side of history. I support Governor Evers' budget, and I hope that we can have an honest, nonpartisan discussion about its merits on the Assembly floor.

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