



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 21, 2019

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JFC Democrats appalled by Republicans' votes against needed projects across the state

GOP rejects funding for cancer research facility, improved care for veterans, and UW System requests

MADISON, WI – In an unprecedented move, Republicans on the bipartisan State Building Commission voted on party lines to reject Governor Evers' entire capital budget yesterday, including \$2 billion in needed construction projects in every part of the state. These same Republicans voted unanimously with Democrats the day before to approve the Governor's project requests, but when it came to the full commission vote, Republicans again decided to put politics over people and continue neglecting our state's crumbling infrastructure. The Democratic members of the Joint Finance Committee are outraged at Republicans' departure from the decades-old tradition of bipartisan approval of the Governor's building plan.

"It is unbelievable that the Wisconsin GOP would rather let state buildings crumble, even in their own districts, than learn to compromise," said Representative Taylor. "According to the veteran director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau Bob Lang, in the Building Commission's 48-year history, the members have never failed to forward capital budget recommendations to the finance committee. This new level of obstruction is absolutely shameful."

"Republicans and Democrats have historically come together to support commonsense investments in our capital infrastructure," said Senator Johnson. "The capital budget includes funding for projects in communities across Wisconsin, including proposals to ensure our children currently at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lakes Schools can be relocated safely and swiftly. Playing politics with these investments jeopardizes economic growth and the future of our state."

"This is unacceptable. The Republicans rejected every single building project that Governor Evers proposed, and sent a clear message that they care more about politics than the communities they represent," said Senator Erpenbach. "The projects funded would have helped people all over the state, and would keep us competitive and moving forward. What's good for GOP partisan politics is clearly not good for Wisconsin."

"As one of the authors of Act 185, that passed unanimously last year, I was pleased that Governor Evers' Capital Budget included the essential funding needed to modernize our failing juvenile justice system," said Representative Goyke. "The Republicans' decision yesterday to oppose these projects will cause delays in implementation of 'The Wisconsin Model' of juvenile justice reform. The Republican action yesterday is a declaration of their unwillingness to work with the Governor and Legislative Democrats. This is a time for investment in our state's future, not partisan politics. We can and must do better."

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