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Republicans Gavel Out Special Session on BadgerCare Expansion

*Missed opportunities for Wisconsin pile up as Republicans
reject more than \$1 Billion in new investments for Wisconsin*

MADISON – In less than one minute, the Assembly GOP convened and then ended Governor Tony Evers’ Special Session on BadgerCare Expansion. Without any discussion or debate, Wisconsin Republicans rejected more than \$1 Billion in one-time federal money slated for economic development and new investments across the state, including a federally qualified health center (FQHC) in the City of Racine, reopening the closed Verso paper mill as a cooperative, and replacing lead pipes in homes and communities throughout Wisconsin. Representative Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) issued the following statement in response:

“I have said over and over again that expanding BadgerCare is the right thing to do for Wisconsin,” Neubauer said. “Wisconsin has the opportunity to bring home an extra \$1 billion in federal one-time money — money that we can invest in our economic recovery and our wellbeing statewide, including a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that Racine has needed for many years.”

For ten years, Republicans in Wisconsin have refused to expand BadgerCare. Thirty-eight out of fifty states already moved forward with expansion, including Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois. Under the American Rescue Plan Act, the federal government has added an additional incentive for Wisconsin to expand BadgerCare, with \$1 billion in new, one-time dollars available to the state.

“The GOP refusal to expand BadgerCare today is one more missed opportunity, after years of missed opportunities. Governor Evers has announced a smart, strategic investment plan for these dollars, and this money can make a huge difference in every corner of the state as we work to recover and rebuild after COVID-19. There’s still time for the Legislature to do the right thing — we can take advantage of this funding, invest \$1 billion into communities across Wisconsin, and build a better, brighter future for Wisconsin families. This is an incredible opportunity, and we can’t afford to pass it up.”

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