



CHRIS LARSON

STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Senator Chris Larson

608.266.7505

Sen. Larson: The GOP Is Once Again Shortchanging Our Public Schools

Milwaukee, WI –Senator Chris Larson released the following statement regarding the inadequate funding levels Republicans are threatening our public schools with.

“Almost more than any other issue, I hear from my neighbors that it is time to finally reverse the decade of defunding and devaluing our public schools. As a father of two and the ranking Democratic member of the Senate Committee on Education, I fear that the clear will of the people demonstrated in the last statewide election is being ignored by a small group of Republicans on JFC.

“Each and every one of our kids deserve a school that is fully able to meet their needs and will provide them a quality education. It is unacceptable that our public schools had to face catastrophic cuts to the tune of \$1 billion under the last administration and are again denied much-needed investments by the Republican legislative majority this budget go around.

“While serving in his previous role as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Gov. Evers listened to education professionals, parents, and policymakers in crafting a K-12 education budget that would serve the needs of all Wisconsin’s children. This is why his budget proposed a \$1.4 billion increased investment for our children’s education. That’s the same budget people saw when they voted for Tony Evers to be our governor and the same budget he introduced this spring.

“Instead, the Republicans on joint finance ignored the will of people and cut \$960 million from Gov. Evers’ proposal. That includes a \$449.7 million cut from special education reimbursement and a \$45.5 million cut from school-based mental health.

“The state budget represents the vision for our state’s future. I support full-day 4K, expanding mental health services, and the much needed \$606 million additional investment in special education.

“On the last day of school, it’s important that we work harder than ever to make sure every child comes back to an even better classroom next year. I call on my Republican colleagues in the Senate and Assembly to work together with Democrats and amend the budget to reflect the will of the people. Our children are worth it.”

WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882
(608) 266-7505 • (800) 361-5487 • FAX: (608) 282-3547
SEN.LARSON@LEGIS.WI.GOV • SENATORCHRISLARSON.COM

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