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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2019

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Wisconsin Deserves Better than GOP Budget *Republicans dismantle Governor's budget to further special interests*

MADISON – After spending months of open discussions with community leaders, students, families and seniors, Governor Tony Evers crafted The People's Budget that is reflective of issues impacting Wisconsinites. Despite overwhelming public support for the People's Budget that invests in classrooms, local roads, and affordable health, Republicans dismantled it in order to further rig the economy and advance their special interest agenda.

“Families, seniors, and students deserve better than a budget that continues to delay road projects, increase health care costs and take money out of our classrooms,” said Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse). “For too long the progress of our state has been hindered by Republican tax giveaways that leave families paying more for less. Sadly, Republicans can't come to grips with the fact that they don't control everything anymore. They ditched the People's Budget and opted for more of the broken status quo that neglects our local classrooms, health care, and crumbling roads.”

Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee made sweeping changes to strip popular proposals from the People's Budget; they rejected the Gov. Evers' proposal to invest a total of \$1.4 billion more into local classrooms and cut over \$500 million in special education funding from his budget; rejected \$1.6 billion in federal funds to expand Medicaid and expand affordable health care access to 82,000 Wisconsinites; blocked funds to address the contaminated drinking water crisis; cut funding for local governments to fix potholes; and cut investments in broadband infrastructure for areas that need it most.

“For the first time in eight years, Wisconsin finally saw a budget vision that addressed the concerns I hear about on a daily basis at community events and listening sessions,” added Sen. Shilling. “That's why it is not surprising there has been so much praise for the People's Budget that champions innovative solutions, promotes a fair economy and expands opportunities for families and communities. Gov. Tony Evers' original budget proposal would make critical investments to re-establish Wisconsin's reputation as a place where the next generation wants to live, work, and raise a family.”

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