



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Spreitzer: Republican Budget is a Missed Opportunity

MADISON — Today, Assembly Republicans passed their version of the state budget. Their budget represents a missed opportunity to pass the People’s Budget, which reflects the needs of our state. Rep. Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement:

“Governor Evers’s budget addresses issues that everyone knows need to be fixed – like health care, education, transportation, and the environment. These are the issues that I have heard time and time again from my constituents and in listening sessions with Governor Evers across the state. Through the People’s Budget, Republicans had the opportunity to pass a budget that reflected the needs of our constituents. Unfortunately, the budget that Assembly Republicans passed falls short of Governor Evers’s proposal.”

- **Health care:** The Republican budget spends more in state taxpayer dollars, and brings in less in federal investments than the Governor’s budget. By rejecting the Medicaid expansion, Republicans have declined to help 82,000 Wisconsinites – and have left money on the table that could have funded other pressing healthcare needs such as mental health and opioid treatment.
- **K-12 Education:** The Republican budget fails to make much-needed investments in our schools. It provides \$509 million less than the Governor for special education funding, and does not reach two-thirds state funding for our public K-12 schools.
- **UW System:** Republicans have failed to prioritize UW System by investing \$69.3 million less than the Governor’s proposal. Their budget extends the tuition freeze without funding the freeze. This leaves students with ever-increasing class sizes as the UW system continues to struggle with stagnant funding. By pretending that inflation doesn’t exist, Republicans once again make the UW do less with less.
- **Environment:** The Republican budget removed the Governor’s provisions to replace lead lateral lines. As legislators, it is our responsibility to ensure that kids in Wisconsin will not continue to drink water with lead in it. Republicans missed their opportunity to join Democrats and end lead in kids’ water.
- **Transportation:** Yet again, Republicans punted on fixing Wisconsin’s crumbling roads and failing infrastructure. Their budget puts the burden solely on the backs of WI residents – no matter how much or how little they drive – rather than sharing the burden with out-of-state drivers and heavy trucks that use our roads every day. Democrats, and all Wisconsin drivers, want to finally fix our roads.

“The Governor’s plan represents the will of the people, and would solve problems that have plagued our state for the past eight years. The budget Assembly Republicans passed today falls short of matching the People’s Budget. As the budget continues to work through the legislative process, Assembly Democrats and I will continue to work to expand affordable health care, to ensure that our schools and roads get the funding they need, to preserve our environment, and to pass a budget that we (and Wisconsinites) can be proud of.”

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