



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Shelia Stubbs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Republican Budget a Missed Opportunity for Wisconsin and Undermines the Will of the People

MADISON, WI – Representative Shelia Stubbs (D-Madison) released the following statement ahead of tonight’s vote on the 2019-2021 biennial state budget:

“When Governor Tony Evers proposed the People’s Budget for the people of Wisconsin, it was a reflection of what the people voted for in November. The budget expanded Medicaid to 82,000 Wisconsinites throughout the state and saved Wisconsin \$325 million; the budget found a sustainable transportation funding solution to finally fix our crumbling roads and infrastructure; the budget fully funded public education, so that every child, regardless of their race, zip code, or level of need, is afforded a quality public education. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “It’s all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.”

Moreover, the Governor’s budget finally began to address our longstanding equity issues in our state across a host of measures. From health and criminal justice, to education and voting rights. Wisconsin is the worst state to raise a black family. 36% of our black children are living in poverty; 13.2% of Black children in Wisconsin were found to have elevated blood lead levels. The People’s budget took reparative steps to bring urgent relief to communities to begin to heal the wounds formed over generations by making critical investments.

That is not the budget we are voting on today. Over the past few months, Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee dismantled the budget that the people voted for and nickel and dimed communities in crisis. Most disheartening is that the Republican budget deprioritizes funding the maternal and child health grant to solve the infant and maternal health crisis that families of color are experiencing. The Republican budget fails to expand Medicaid to 82,000 Wisconsinites and save our state money so we can invest elsewhere in public education, transportation, and addressing health disparities in our state. Overall, the budget we are voting on today is a budget of missed opportunities that our communities cannot afford to miss.”

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