



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. VanderMeer Statement on Budget Vote

Madison – State Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) released the following statement after voting against the 2015-17 state budget:

“Since Governor Walker’s budget address in February, I have held many public listening sessions throughout our district. These sessions proved to be invaluable in not only soliciting feedback from many of you, but also allowed me to hear first-hand what sort of effects the governor’s proposal would have on our communities.

“Over the past several months, I’ve taken those concerns to heart and have been fighting to improve this budget. Prioritizing our public education system, I’m pleased to report that this budget not only increases the state’s investment in K-12 education by \$200 million, but it also freezes UW tuition for Wisconsin families. We were also able to make considerable progress in moving to save the popular SeniorCare program and preserve long-term care for our most vulnerable offered through FamilyCare and IRIS.

“However, after much reflection and review of the finer details of this budget, I ultimately cast my vote against its passage.

“One of my primary concerns with the recently adopted budget is the level of borrowing it requires to continue to fund our state’s transportation network. With no real solution to solve the insolvency of our aging infrastructure, I fear that a real, sustainable path forward was not presented in this budget. I applauded the efforts of my colleagues to significantly reduce the amount of transportation bonding initially proposed by the governor, but more needs to be done.

“Finally, I truly believe that this budget takes a number of positive steps forward to help our schools, students and teachers. However, I also heard from many of you that this budget simply does not do enough to maintain our public school systems and I agree. I will continue to be an independent voice on education and advocate to find ways to invest in the future of our children.

“Again, I appreciate hearing from so many of you on the many parts of this budget. Please know that this was not an easy decision. However, I feel confident that my vote ultimately reflects the will and wishes of our district. It is and continues to be an honor to represent the 70th Assembly district and I look forward to working with you to continue advocating for our communities here in Madison.

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.