



Media Release

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Rep. Shankland: Statement on Assembly Passage of Budget

MADISON – Late this evening, the State Assembly passed the 2015-2017 Budget. The Republican budget guts Wisconsin’s universities, jeopardizes our successful long-term care programs, funnels dollars from public schools into private schools, and slashes the programs that protect our shared natural resources. In response, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“The Republican budget reveals that their priority is Walker’s presidential ambitions, not Wisconsin families. This budget cuts \$250 million from our universities, including \$12 million from UW-Stevens Point over the next two years. It takes millions of dollars away from our public schools and gives it to private unaccountable voucher schools. It dismantles a long-term care system that seniors and people with disabilities rely on for their independence and quality of care. And it lowers wages and attacks Wisconsin workers’ right to a weekend.

“I was proud to stand up for my community by introducing proactive budget alternatives that would have invested in public education, ensured a strong future for our workers, and protected our clean air, water, and land. I also introduced amendments to restore WEEB and WIST at UW-Stevens Point and address the student loan crisis through debt relief and increased financial aid. But Assembly Republicans voted in lockstep and rejected every measure one by one. They even voted against my amendment to prevent last-minute policy items from being thrown into the budget.

“The people of Wisconsin are paying a heavy price as Walker runs for president and legislative Republicans sell out our state’s future. I voted for Wisconsin families when I voted against this budget, and I will continue to fight tirelessly for them and their priorities above all else.”

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Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) represents the 71st Assembly District in Portage County and serves as the Assistant Assembly Democratic Leader.