

Romaine Quinn

State Representative • Serving the 75th Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7/09/2015

Contact: Rep. Quinn (608) 266-2519

Representative Quinn Votes “Yes” on Budget

Bill includes historic low borrowing, fiscal responsibility to support key goals.

Madison – MADISON – Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake) voted on Wednesday to approve the proposed 2015-17 state budget.

“I am proud of the budget we passed last night,” said Rep. Quinn. “Although there are some items that I do not completely support in the budget, this legislation will protect education, limit borrowing, and allow Wisconsin to continue to grow economically. We have done all of this without raising taxes, fines, or fees: no gas tax increases, no property tax increases, no income tax increases. Indeed, we have fixed an outdated and costly prevailing wage system and, supported middle-class families by ending the marriage penalty.”

The nearly 73 billion dollar budget was heavily edited by the Legislature before its passage. “The Governor’s budget, once reformed by the Republican legislature, includes many items that are sure to sit well with both Democrats and Republicans,” said Rep. Quinn. These include increased spending for K-12 schools, saving SeniorCare and continuing support for ADRCs, the expansion of Family Care and IRIS statewide, and increasing the funding of healthcare services for the poor by nearly one billion dollars.

Rep. Quinn was particularly proud to say that his action contributed to an important win in K-12 education, by shoring up funding for the Chetek-Weyerhauser and Chequamegon consolidated school districts. Each of these districts was facing the potential for severe staff cutbacks due to the loss of consolidation aid money. Rep. Quinn's budget motion allows these school districts to raise money to fill that gap.

Rep. Quinn also noted that he was able to help spearhead a movement to protect two-year and extension schools in the University of Wisconsin system, along with Reps. Ed Brooks and Heaton. The budget restored 50 million dollars to those UW campuses which are least able to handle any cuts, and would not have been included in the budget without his action.

The budget bucked the Governor on a number of other issues, including the amount of borrowing in the transportation fund. “The amount of borrowing the Governor proposed was simply unsustainable,” said Quinn. The updated budget cuts borrowing by roughly 450 million dollars, lowering the state's borrowing to its lowest point since the 1980s. The Legislature also separated a deal on the Bucks arena from the budget. “This important issue deserves to be discussed on its own merits. Although many in the southeastern corner of the state support spending taxpayer money on a Milwaukee stadium, the economic benefits to the northwoods is questionable at best,” said Rep. Quinn. “That debate needs to be had separately, and on its own merits – not as part of the budget process.”

“After months of receiving input from constituents across the district, my office has worked very hard to make this budget work for the 75th Assembly district and for the state. I truly believe we have accomplished that task,” he said.

#