



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FINANCE CHAIRS' STATEMENT ON BUDGET PROGRESS

MADISON – On Thursday, the co-chairs of the state's budget-writing Joint Finance Committee (JFC), State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), issued the following statement regarding the JFC's progress with the 2015-17 state budget and Wisconsin's forward momentum:

"As we continue to move forward with the budget process, our committee has begun to improve upon the governor's proposal. We began working on the proposed 2015-17 state budget weeks earlier than the JFC has in past budgets, and we have already made important decisions that will help promote efficiencies in state government and save taxpayer dollars.

"Last budget cycle, we returned \$2 billion to the hardworking taxpayers of Wisconsin. We are seeing our economy steadily improve and job creation is on the rise. Our state's unemployment rate has dropped to 4.6% -- the lowest it has been since before the recession.

"Wisconsin Democrats are recycling rhetoric from the past. Years ago, these same ideas drove up state spending; positive results were nowhere to be seen. Democrats want to rely on the federal government for funding of our state programs; however, indebting our state to big government is both unreliable and unsustainable. Now that our economy is rebounding and our state is headed in the right direction, one thing is clear: The ideas that failed our state in the past certainly won't work now.

"We are seeing positive results from the reforms we've made over the last two budget cycles, and it's important now more than ever that we continue on this path to success. Already this budget season, we've reduced all funds by \$19.5 million.

"Moreover, we are committed to prioritizing public education for students throughout Wisconsin. Last budget cycle, the JFC allocated nearly \$300 million more over the biennium to K-12 education than was initially proposed in the 2013-15 state budget. This budget, we are fully committed to continuing to invest in our state's public schools.



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“As the JFC moves forward with the budget process, we will continue to work to reduce the size of government, support public education, cut the red tape that inhibits job growth and creation, and lessen the financial burden on hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers.”

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