



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2015

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Joint Finance Committee Action on State Budget

MADISON— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) announced several recent state budget changes made by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) during the last week of deliberation and Executive Sessions.

The JFC, on which Sen. Marklein serves, met on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 and today, Thursday, May 7, 2015.

“While the new state revenue numbers given to us this week were disappointing, my colleagues and I continue to seek ways to save funds and apply them to our priorities,” Marklein said. “The last several weeks, we have worked on low-hanging fruit – all of the things we could do without a clear picture of projected revenue – but now that we know where our numbers are, we will be more aggressively seeking ways to improve the funding for priority areas like education, and reduce spending in others.”

To date, the JFC has reduced all funds by \$32.5 million, reduced general purpose revenue (GPR) spending by \$29 million, and reduced the number of FTE positions by 33.

This week, the following actions were taken:

- **Wisconsin Well Woman program** - added \$100,000 to the Wisconsin Well Woman Program which provides breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic services to women aged 45 to 64 with little or no health care coverage. The program is available in all 72 counties and 11 tribes and reached 5,799 women in 2014. (5/5/15)
- **Rural Emergency Medical Education** – provide a \$40,000 grant for advanced life support training to doctors, physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and paramedics who work in rural hospitals and clinics. In the past, this funding was given to the Comprehensive Advance Life Support (CALS) Rural Emergency Medical Education organization. (5/5/15)
- **Wisconsin Fund for Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) Grants** – restored the Wisconsin Fund which provides grants to low-income residents for part of the costs of repairing and replacing failing septic systems. (5/5/15)
- **Sexual Assault Victims Servicing Funding (SAVS)** – added \$100,000 GPR to the Department of Justice in 2016-17 for grants under the sexual assault victims servicing grant program. (5/7/15)

- **Lafayette County Sheriff's Department** – added a grant for \$50,000 per year to enable the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department to hire an officer dedicated to drug law enforcement. (5/7/15)
- **Law Enforcement Officer-Involved Death Investigations** – added \$630,000 for 4 positions over the biennium to conduct office involved incidents. (5/7/15)
- **State Park Solvency** – I authored a motion for the state parks account that would improve the financial condition of the state park system. We also required the DNR to study ways for the state parks to increase revenue and manage resources for continued sustainability. (5/7/15)

Senator Marklein offered the following comments on several of the actions taken:

Wisconsin Well Woman Program

“Women throughout our state are served and saved by cancer screenings and diagnostic services,” Marklein said. “This program has been an invaluable tool and I am proud to support it.”

Rural Emergency Medical Education

“As the Senator for a very rural district, I supported the funding for an important educational program that reaches providers in many of the communities I serve,” Marklein said. “To serve all of our citizens, we must give our doctors and nurses access to continuing education and opportunities for learning about new technologies and techniques without taking them too far away from those they serve.”

Wisconsin Fund for Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) Grants

“The 17th Senate District has the largest percentage of applicants to the Wisconsin Fund grant program,” Marklein said. “There are low-income families counting on this assistance to bring their septic systems into compliance. This fund has significant environmental and economic impacts and I am pleased to support restoring these funds.”

Sexual Assault Victims Servicing Funding (SAVS) – “We have an agency in Platteville that assists victims locally through this program,” Marklein said. “It’s unfortunate that we have these types of crimes in our community, but it’s important that we assist the victims.”

Lafayette County Sheriff's Department – “I am proud to support funding that will enable the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department to dedicate one deputy to drug law enforcement so that they can work with surrounding counties and communities to combat this growing problem,” Marklein said. “We need to give our local law enforcement the tools that they need to investigate, collaborate and enforce the laws to reduce drug-related crime and incidents in our communities.”

Law Enforcement Officer-Involved Death Investigations – “In light of recent news throughout our country, funding for this effort is necessary to insure that our public safety officers and those they serve receive fair and equitable justice,” Marklein said.

State Park Solvency – “Our state parks are a major economic and environmental asset for our state,” Marklein said. “The intent of my motion is to improve the financial condition of our treasured state parks to ensure that these resources and destinations will be maintained for generations.”

The Joint Finance Committee will continue to meet in Executive Session over the next several weeks to revise the Governor’s budget proposal before it is presented to the full legislature.

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