



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JFC Restores Aging & Disability Resource Centers, Public Broadcasting

MADISON— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) announced the restoration of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and funding for public broadcasting, among other changes to the state budget this week.

The JFC met on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 and today, Thursday, May 14, 2015.

“I am pleased to announce that the JFC decided to preserve Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) services in our communities. I know how important the maintenance of ADRCs is to our community as a whole. I am proud to share this good news and appreciate all of the input and encouragement I received throughout the budget process in support of ADRCs,” Marklein said. “Our local ADRCs will continue to serve all of the people in each of our communities. As your State Senator, I know the value of the personal connections that are built within ADRCs and I have fought to keep them intact.”

“I was also pleased to support the restoration of funding and positions for the Educational Communications Board (ECB) to continue to provide public broadcasting to our citizens,” Marklein said. “Public broadcasting has a very strong and supportive audience in the 17th Senate District.”

The JFC restored \$1.6 million and 8.6 positions to the ECB. The restored funding is 30.9% of the ECB’s overall budget. This is a reduction of only 5.5%. National averages of state support for public broadcasting are only 20%.

In addition to these two major changes, the JFC also took the following actions:

- **Mental Health Crisis Service Grants** - Increased funding to counties by \$1.5 million for mental health support services and changed some of the rules related to this program. (5/12/15)
- **Domestic Abuse Grants** – increased funding by \$5 million in the second year (2016-17). (5/12/15)
- **Human Trafficking Victim Services** – increased funding by \$2 million in the second year (2016-17). (5/12/15)
- **Collaborative Municipalities** – created a levy limit exemption for municipalities who collaborate with other municipalities for various services and projects. We want to encourage policies that promote efficiency and collaboration to minimize duplication of services in our communities. For example – shared ambulance and EMS services. (5/14/15)
- **Carryforward** – addressed the “tax to the max” policy. Our current tax limits inadvertently encourage communities to levy taxes to the limit because if they don’t use them they aren’t able to recover these dollars in the subsequent year. This new policy will encourage communities to tax for their needs, but preserve upward mobility in the future. To achieve this, we created a levy

limit adjustment allowing a political subdivision to increase its allowable levy by the amount of unused levy authority from prior years and set the maximum carryforward factor to 5%. (5/14/15)

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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