



# LEAH VUKMIR

## STATE Senator

July 8, 2015  
For Immediate Release

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### **Senate Passes State Budget; Assembly Up Next**

(Madison, WI) – Senator Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) released the following statement after the Senate’s passage of the 2015-2017 state budget.

“In addition to partial repeal of the prevailing wage law, investment in K-12 education, reforming educational opportunities for special needs students, statewide school choice expansion and Family Care were my four other top priorities as a member of the Joint Finance Committee.

“I have remained steadfast in my commitment to K-12 education. We restored K-12 funding by \$150 per pupil in the first year and added an extra \$100 per pupil in the second year, an added investment of \$196 million over the biennium. We were committed to going above and beyond restoring funds to K-12 education. We must provide our students the tools necessary to succeed and the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills to thrive in school. We will continue to invest in our schools to set up our students for future success.

“JFC also approved the first increase in special education aid in eight years with the creation of a Special Needs Scholarship, which will finally give parents a true choice between a public school failing to meet their child’s goals and a private school. The Special Needs Scholarship will give parents and students options in choosing the best private school to meet the student’s educational needs. We are giving families hope that their children can finally get the education they deserve.

“We also made needed changes to the state’s open enrollment program. Families have been trying to work within the open enrollment program to move their children out of a public school that has failed them. Unfortunately, they have had the door slammed in their face time and time again. We are now breaking that door down.

“The state budget also protects Long Term Care. We are giving the Department of Health Services limited authority to negotiate with the Federal Government on potential changes to Family Care to integrate long term and medical care. This plan requires public input, includes a self-directed option, and gives patients choice between competing providers. Integration of care provides better care for customers and doctors, as well as a better value for taxpayers.”

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