



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2021

Contact: Sen. Jon Erpenbach (608)266-6670
Sen. LaTonya Johnson (608)266-2500
Rep. Evan Goyke (608)-266-0645
Rep. Greta Neubauer (608)266-0634

GOP Guilty of Wasting Millions on Frivolous Lawsuits *In 3 Years Legislative Republicans Legal Tab Costs Taxpayers \$8.5 Million*

MADISON – As the Joint Finance Committee heads into another executive session today, Democrats on the committee are reminding Wisconsin families of the Republican abuse of our state dollars. A [memo](#) from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau has revealed that in just *three* years, Republicans have run an \$8.5 million legal tab at the expense of Wisconsin taxpayers. The memo underscores the misplaced priorities of Republicans and their disastrous financial choices that are jeopardizing billions for Wisconsin’s economy. Adding insult to injury, some of the lawsuits sought to dismantle tools being used by the Evers administration to combat a once-in-a-century public health emergency all while legislative Republicans didn’t convene for nearly a year during the height of the pandemic. Below is a statement from Democratic members of the Joint Finance Committee:

“Republicans have no problem spending millions of dollars on frivolous lawsuits but can’t be bothered to invest in Wisconsin classrooms to secure [\\$2.3 billion in federal relief](#). That’s funding that could offset the unexpected costs triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and it’s our tax dollars that should be reinvested in our communities. Families, schools, and small businesses depend on a responsible budget that invests in our priorities. It is an embarrassment that the party overseeing the state finances in the Legislature are choosing to spend our money so poorly while ignoring the consequences of their actions. They are playing with state money like it’s a Monopoly board game and it’s at the expense of our economic recovery.”

###