



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Statement on Budget Vote

For Immediate Release
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MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly took up the 2021-23 biennial budget bill. Following the floor vote, Rep. Andraca released the following statement:

“The budget created by the Joint Finance Committee is a huge missed opportunity for the state of Wisconsin. With an anticipated budget surplus on the horizon, we can, and we should, be returning money to taxpayers via a tax cut and strategically investing in the long-term health and well-being of our communities.

Right now, thanks to smart budget decisions in years past and a successful vaccination rollout, our state has enough resources to make substantial, generational investments that will improve the lives of the people of this state.

The budget introduced by Governor Evers was aligned with what Wisconsin needs -- more health care dollars via BadgerCare expansion, more resources for K-12 and higher education, greater investment in clean energy and protecting our state’s natural areas. The Evers budget would also invest more state dollars in the building blocks of strong economic growth: transportation, road improvements via increased shared revenues to local municipalities, investments in affordable child care, and broadband access.

Unfortunately, we must vote on the budget we have, not the budget we want. Today I voted in favor of several amendments that would have restored many of my constituents’ top priorities -- more funding for Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, lifting the revenue cap to bring more dollars to our schools, expanding BadgerCare, and establishing a nonpartisan redistricting commission. I urged my colleagues to vote for many of them on the floor of the Assembly. Unfortunately, all failed along party lines.

I voted yes on the budget in order to ensure that the state qualifies for federal ARPA funding for K-12 education -- funding that schools will desperately need without a budget with sufficient state funding -- and with the hope that Governor Evers can improve the budget with his line-item veto.

During today’s session, I introduced the “Improving Our Democracy” amendment. This amendment would have introduced a non-partisan redistricting system in Wisconsin, and required a majority vote in each house to retain or pay attorneys associated with redistricting. So long as Wisconsin has gerrymandered legislative districts Republican legislators will feel empowered to ignore the will of the majority. I will continue to fight each day in the legislature for fair maps, reliable k-12 funding, improved access to health care, and protections for Wisconsin’s health and environment to make our district and our state safer, smarter, and healthier. “

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