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For Immediate Release:
February 20th, 2023

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Budget Response

On Wednesday, February 15th, 2023, Governor Tony Evers gave his third biennial budget address. A budget address is a public spectacle that is used to exclaim the budgetary priorities of the administration. Sometimes it lines up with the legislature, other times it does not.

During the last budget cycle, Governor Evers proposed a budget that would have put our state in debt. This type of spending is unwise and puts our state in a place where it doesn't need to be. Thankfully, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) are both Republicans. With their hard work, along with the other Republican members of the JFC, an extremely large surplus has arose. How we spend this surplus, how we save it, and how we craft the next biennial budget will put our state on a course for either success or failure.

Governor Evers released his budget and here are some highlights that we know as of right now. We know that he wants to put a freeze on school choice. This decision takes a parents say out of their kids' education. This is a tumultuous view. Parents raise their kids and should have a say in their child's education. We also know tax increases in this budget would cost Wisconsin taxpayers nearly \$1.4 billion. This completely and wholly unacceptable.

Governor Evers also would allow larger municipalities and counties to raise their sales taxes. This would mean that places like Madison and Milwaukee would get more money out of people who comes to shop or are passing through to simply benefit their cities and not other peoples. Another thing that also baffles me is it would statues to make sure there was, "gender neutral terminology." This type of a thing in a budget absolutely blows my mind. For one, this is a completely unnecessary change as no one is actually affected by the already existing language and two, this is policy in the state budget. The legislative branch is meant to craft legislation. This type of legislation is a grotesque overstep of authority by the Governor and should not be tolerated.

There are many more flawed attributes in the Governor's budget but not to worry, my colleagues and I will work hard to amend the naïve attempts by Governor Evers to push his own agenda. I look forward to making a budget that creates yet another surplus the serves the taxpayers in the great state of Wisconsin.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to reach to my office at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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