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## MARK BORN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 39<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rep. Born Reacts to the State of the State Address**

**Madison** – Representative Mark Born (R – Beaver Dam) made the following statement in reaction to the State of the State Address:

“Tonight, we heard many ways Wisconsin has improved in recent years. We’ve made investments in our infrastructure that has helped repair roads, bridges and delivered high-speed internet to communities throughout the state. Republican authored tax cuts have provided relief to Wisconsinites which, over the past 12 years, have saved taxpayers over \$22 billion. And our public schools have received historic funding increases that have resulted in more funding for K-12 schools than ever before.

“But the Governor’s address didn’t share the whole picture. Nearly two-thirds of students in our state aren’t proficient in math or reading—and in some districts the numbers are even worse. Our kids deserve better. We need to make improvements to better serve our students and make sure families have access to learning environments that best fit their needs.

“Additionally, families across the state continue to struggle with the economic pressures caused by inflation. Republicans have prioritized returning tax dollars back to hardworking Wisconsinites, but there is more we can do to relieve the financial burden. Our state has a budget surplus—partially due to increased tax collections—and we need to return more of this money to taxpayers.

“And communities across the state are facing out-of-control crime rates with a struggling criminal justice system. Statewide, we are setting records for homicides – there was a 70% increase in homicides between 2019 and 2021. Meanwhile, we have fewer law enforcement officers in Wisconsin than any time in the past decade. Our state can do better to ensure our communities are safer and that our criminal justice system serves those it is designed to serve.

“With the legislative session underway, I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on our improvements in recent years and make Wisconsin an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.”

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