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**GARY ALAN HEBL**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

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**Rep. Hebl Denounces Republican Intention to Gut Gov. Evers' Budget**

(MADISON) – Late Wednesday, Republican leaders of the Joint Committee on Finance signaled their intention to strip numerous legislative items from Governor Evers' budget. Today, Rep. Gary Hebl (Sun Prairie) released the following statement in response:

*Governor Evers and Lt. Governor Barnes have spent a significant amount of time travelling the state to figure out what the people of Wisconsin want. The budget reflects that. The members of the Joint Finance Committee also spent time going around the state to listen to what people thought about the budget. Their reaction was slightly different. Instead of listening to what the people want, Republicans on JFC are instead intent on stripping out all these popular provisions. They are unresponsive to constituents and are taking an "I know what's best for you" approach, despite their actions being the exact opposite of what people want.*

*Their intended actions are incredibly irresponsible. They are doing a disservice to the people of Wisconsin by digging in their heels and refusing to move Wisconsin forward. Some of the measures they plan to remove include:*

- **Expansion of Medicaid:** *The JFC Republicans are refusing to grant some 80,000 Wisconsinites access to affordable health care. By their own admission, this was the #1 issue brought up at JFC listening sessions, yet they still plan to scuttle it.*
- **Replacement of lead service lines:** *Ensuring Wisconsin has clean drinking water should be a no brainer. Unfortunately, JFC Republicans disagree, and decided that fixing potentially poisoned water is not a top priority.*
- **Non-partisan redistricting reform:** *Plain and simple, the people of Wisconsin overwhelmingly want to have fair district lines. Republicans see this as a threat to a majority to which they believe they are entitled, and plan to take it out of the budget. The bottom line is that voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around.*
- **Municipal Broadband Facilities in Underserved or Unserved Areas:** *I cannot fathom why they want to prevent under- and unserved areas from upgrading their internet services. Everyone in the state understands the importance of high speed internet. Countless rural areas in the state still do not have access to it. This is something that should be a nonpartisan issue.*
- **Closing the Dark Store Loophole:** *Big box stores are using a quirk of the tax code to pay lower property taxes, passing the cost on to individual tax payers. They get their property evaluated at the level of a similar, but closed-for-business, store, which dramatically reduces their taxes while increasing the tax burden on homeowners. Democrats and Republicans have been trying to close this loophole in a bipartisan way, so it's a mystery why they want to take it out of the budget.*

*These are just some of the provisions that the Republicans on Joint Finance are preparing to strip from the budget. Each of them is broadly popular, yet the voice of the people of Wisconsin is falling on deaf ears. After eight years of budgets prioritizing special interests, Governor Evers' budget once again put the people before the powerful. That seems to be a bridge too far for Republicans, who seem to already be focusing on the 2022 gubernatorial election by trying to deny Governor Evers anything that might be considered a win. That's irresponsible, and not how our state should be run.*

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