

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JFC Democrats Denounce Republicans for Stripping Budget of Critical Initiatives

Today's meeting demonstrated yet again that Republicans are ignoring the will of the people by gutting the budget of the items supported at the committee's public hearings.

MADISON – The Democratic members of the Joint Finance Committee today expressed their deep disappointment and frustration as Republicans on the committee voted to remove 545 initiatives from Governor Evers' proposed budget. Items stripped out were aimed at supporting families, expanding access to health care, strengthening our education system, and fostering economic growth.

Governor Evers crafted this budget after thorough discussion with Wisconsinites statewide. The support for his plan was reinforced at the four public hearings the Joint Finance Committee held in April. These budget provisions were included and widely supported because they are vital to the well-being and prosperity of the state's residents, and their removal is a major setback in keeping our state competitive.

In conclusion to today's briefing, the Democratic members of the Joint Committee on Finance have released the following statements:

Senator Johnson (D-Milwaukee): "We spent the last month traveling around the state to get input on the state budget. We've heard support for Medicaid expansion, background checks for firearms, marijuana legalization, and paid family leave. Despite broad public support, Republicans are shamelessly rejecting these popular initiatives from the budget. That's your money, and they are choosing to ignore our state's needs."

Rep. Goyke (D-Milwaukee): "We must put forth a budget that meets the historic moment we're in and spur growth in our communities. Governor Evers set a benchmark in his pro-growth, pro-Wisconsin budget, and now I look forward to watching Legislative Republicans spend the next couple months playing catch up."

Sen. Kelda Roys (D-Madison): "Gov. Evers set the bar with his budget and it's disappointing that Republicans refuse to address the needs of Wisconsinites. During listening sessions around the state, people came forward to share the need for investment in child care, public schools, and our local communities. Today, Republicans showed they're unwilling to make necessary investments to serve the people in their communities and make Wisconsin a place people want to live, learn, and thrive."

Rep. McGuire (D-Kenosha): “As we traveled the state for the Joint Finance public hearings, we heard from Wisconsinites about their support for Gov. Evers’ investments in priorities like public education, healthcare and mental health, and child care. Today, the GOP’s first action on the budget is to slash some of the most popular items we heard about over the past few weeks. Joint Finance Democrats will continue fighting for the priorities that the people of this state spoke up for and deserve in their state budget.”

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