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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Statement by Senator Miller Regarding the Governor's Budget**

Madison – “Two years ago Governor Walker and Legislative Republicans cut a record \$1.6 billion from K-12 public education plus \$70 million from Technical Colleges and \$250 million from the University of Wisconsin System. These were body blows to Wisconsin’s long and proud history of investing in one of the best education systems in the country.

“As a result, public schools experienced record staff reductions, increased class sizes, and reduced offerings. College students and their families paid higher tuitions. Technical Colleges reduced offerings in the very classes that provide training needed by Wisconsin employers, but were costly to provide.

“The budget unveiled today is a huge disappointment for those who want to see a renewal of a commitment to educational excellence. The Governor’s proposed \$475 million increase is a pittance compared to the \$1.6 billion cut and none of the money will actually go to public schools. In contrast to no new funding for public schools, the governor offers \$94 million for private voucher schools and \$800 million increase for transportation. Perhaps if we renamed education, transportation, it could get funded.

“Underfunding schools is the wrong direction for our Wisconsin students, for their parents, and for a prosperous Wisconsin future.”

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