



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Disastrous budget passes State Assembly *Rep. Spreitzer votes NO*

MADISON – Today, Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement after the Assembly’s passage of the 2015-17 state budget:

“Despite Assembly Democrats’ vociferous opposition, Assembly Republicans have approved a disastrous budget for the state of Wisconsin. They have cut public education to pay for private school vouchers, made debilitating cuts to the UW System, slashed staff at the DNR and our state parks, and utterly failed to secure a sustainable future for our infrastructure. They have left seniors and people with disabilities worrying that critical programs they depend on may not be there in the future.

“I and fellow Democrats introduced several reasonable compromise amendments: to fully fund our public schools and the UW system, to continue the successful Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, to increase transportation funding, and to secure healthcare for our friends and neighbors both young and old. Unfortunately, every one of these compromises was rejected.

“The overall message from Republicans was clear: ‘we have our marching orders from Candidate/Governor Walker, and we can’t change things now.’

“But we could change things: just by accepting federal Medicaid dollars that Wisconsin residents already paid, we could gain \$360 million for the state budget. This could fully fund UW, increase funding for K-12 education, protect our state parks, and expand access to healthcare, all without costing taxpayers a penny.

“Republicans have sold out the people of Wisconsin, and our future, to assist Governor Walker as he pursues another job. Thankfully, with stringent open records laws, we have at least been able to see where these harms originated.”

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