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Assembly Republicans play politics with Wisconsin's future

MADISON – Assembly Republicans spent today's Assembly floor session trying to distract from their harmful budget, which sells out Wisconsin's public schools, universities, and health care programs to support Governor Walker's presidential ambitions.

"Republicans in the Assembly spent today playing politics with Wisconsin's future and essential safety net systems like FoodShare and unemployment," said Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit). "Republicans passed three half-baked bills that would cost millions of dollars to implement, money that could come at the expense of our real priorities, like public education."

Assembly Democrats attempted to pass legislation to accept federal money to expand BadgerCare, but every Assembly Republican voted against the bill. Accepting the federal money, made up of taxes already paid by Wisconsin residents, would expand access to healthcare and save Wisconsin hundreds of millions of dollars over the next two years.

Speaking on the floor of the Assembly, Rep. Spreitzer noted that hundreds of millions of dollars in savings would go a long way toward making our public schools whole, saving our UW system, and saving SeniorCare and long-term care programs for seniors and people with disabilities.

"When you're facing a massive budget deficit of your own creation, you don't thumb your nose at hundreds of millions of dollars and while spending millions more on programs that have never worked in any other state," said Rep. Spreitzer. "Yet that's exactly what Assembly Republicans did today."

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