



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Debate on disastrous budget begins**

*Rep. Spreitzer calls on Republicans to salvage budget before it's too late.*

MADISON – Today, Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement on the start of the Assembly's debate on the 2015-17 state budget:

“As the Wisconsin Assembly heads to the floor for debate, I am eager to speak out for my constituents and highlight the most harmful portions of the Republican budget: cuts to public education to pay for private school vouchers, threats to long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities, shocking cuts to the UW System, short-sighted reductions in DNR funding, and massive cuts to roads and bridges.

“I look forward to proposing positive solutions to fix the worst parts of this budget and improve the lives of children, families, and seniors in Wisconsin. 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, and expand access to healthcare, all without costing taxpayers a penny.

“Instead of making common sense decisions, the Republican budget devastates Wisconsin and its residents. Republicans are selling out the people of Wisconsin, and our future, in order to supply conservative talking points for Governor Walker's presidential campaign. Thankfully, with stringent open records laws, we have at least been able to see where these harms originated.

“I call on Assembly Republicans to do what they can to salvage this budget and put Wisconsin back on a path toward prosperity and hope. It's not too late to listen to the many voices we heard at the Joint Finance Committee hearings and listening sessions all around this state: you don't have to do this.”

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### **45<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

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