



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Mark Spreitzer Statement on Budget Action by Governor Evers

MADISON — As Governor Tony Evers took executive action on the 2019 – 2021 State Budget, State Representative Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) made the following statement:

“This budget was fundamentally formed by the proposal put forward by Governor Evers: the People's Budget. Because of his leadership, this budget does more for our K-12 schools, technical colleges and the UW system, as well as for healthcare, including direct care worker pay, mental health access, and dental coverage. This budget also extends the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for two more years, funds the Dairy Innovation Hub at UW, and includes many important transportation and building projects across the state. Unfortunately, we could have done even more in these areas if legislative Republicans had been willing to work with Governor Evers and retain more ideas from the People's Budget.

“The Governor’s budget addressed issues that I have heard about time and time again from my constituents and from people across the state – issues such as health care, education, transportation, and the environment. The budget reflects a missed opportunity to match the Governor’s investments in these areas, and also to solve issues like closing the dark store loophole, replacing lead drinking water pipes, and ending gerrymandering. The biggest shortfall was the failure of legislative Republicans to take the Medicaid expansion. This decision not only means that 82,000 Wisconsinites will have less access to affordable healthcare, it created a \$324 million hole in the budget that forced legislative Republicans to provide less money to both K-12 and UW schools than they could have, while using more of our state tax dollars than was necessary to pay for critical healthcare programs. Governor Evers and I agree: Republicans delivered a budget that is insufficient.

“Thankfully, we have a Governor who remains dedicated to the people of our state. I applaud Governor Evers for finding ways to improve this budget in spite of concerted efforts to deny him the use of his constitutional powers. I am heartened to know that our schools will receive additional funding to serve our students, local governments will retain their ability to protect their local natural resources, and many of the Republican attempts to hinder our progress have been thwarted. This is what it looks like to truly serve the will of the people.

“Ultimately, I know that this budget could do more for our state. These small changes are positive steps, but the State Legislature must be willing to work towards more long term goals to truly overcome the struggles of the last eight years under Governor Walker. The people of Wisconsin have spoken, and as legislators we must answer their call.”

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