



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rep. Mark Spreitzer: Republican Budget Reflects Missed Opportunities**

MADISON -- Today, Assembly Republicans passed their version of the state budget. Their budget represents missed opportunities to pass a budget that invests in Wisconsinites, like the budget proposal from Governor Evers. Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement:

“Budgets are about priorities and values, so let’s look at what the state budget passed today says about Republicans’ priorities. This budget will limit access to affordable healthcare for 90,000 Wisconsinites while rejecting \$1.6 billion of our own taxpayer dollars. It will hurt our next generation by barely adding any new investments in our classrooms and not increasing school funding to match inflation -- despite our state’s historic surplus. While Republicans will tell you that they’re investing historic amounts in education, the reality is that they’re using accounting tricks and limiting what actually goes into our classrooms. Their proposal attempts to skate by and put the bare minimum in our schools to check a box for federal funding -- instead of actually buckling down and doing what our schools need.

“This budget will spend more on corrections than on the UW system while keeping our prison populations high, especially for Wisconsinites of color. It will shortchange Wisconsinites by creating a \$268 million structural deficit over the next two years. The Republican budget will suppress voters by blocking nonpartisan redistricting reform, which would ensure transparency and fairness in our maps. It also fails to support our family farms by preventing investments in meat and dairy processing, farmer mental health, and Wisconsin’s hemp farming industry. And this budget will limit broadband access by investing \$75 million less than Governor Evers had proposed, after a year in which internet access has never been more crucial.

“If Republicans were willing to maximize the resources available to our state, we could make this budget so much better. Governor Evers and legislative Democrats have laid out a vision for our state and our budget that would fund our schools, make our state healthier, and bring meaningful help to Wisconsinites across the state. Thanks to President Biden and Governor Evers, Wisconsin has the resources to invest in important priorities and return money to taxpayers without undermining our future.

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

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“In the Governor’s original budget, Democrats showed what is possible for Wisconsin. In amendments on the Assembly floor today, Democrats continued to advance policies supported by Wisconsinites across our state. I am disappointed but not surprised that Republicans in the Assembly have once again failed to invest in our state.

“We have the opportunity to address the needs of our state and come out of the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever. This budget isn’t enough. There are too many missed opportunities, and I voted no. Assembly Democrats and I will continue to work to expand affordable health care, and to ensure that our schools and students get the funding they need -- both in the final steps of the state budget process and as part of standalone legislation.”

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