



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

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Contact: Sidney Litke, Communications Director, 608-266-9170

Senator Agard Applauds Governor Evers' People First Budget

MADISON- This evening, Governor Tony Evers will deliver his second budget address laying out his priorities for the 2021-2023 biennium. Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement ahead of the address:

"When we put people first, we can achieve great things. And when we put people first, we can create opportunity and prosperity for our friends and neighbors. A budget is a reflection of your values. If you show me a budget, I can tell your priorities and your worldview. In Wisconsin, we have a history of putting the needs of our community at the forefront of our public policy. This progressive tradition is needed now more than ever as we face serious challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The most important job of public servants is to listen to those you serve - and that is exactly what we are going to see from Governor Evers and his 2021-2023 budget. I have heard from people in my district asking for what Governor Evers has prioritized in his budget: lower prescription drug costs; expanding access to healthcare; funding public schools; affordable childcare; legalizing recreational and medicinal cannabis; supporting small businesses during the pandemic; fostering economic growth in our communities; supporting our farmers; and so much more. This budget is a culmination of earnestly listening and responding to the everyday needs of ordinary Wisconsinites across our state.

"To my Republican colleagues who have already voiced their opposition to many of these provisions: you cannot govern by ignoring the will of the people. People all over the state have been asking - begging - for these things because they will improve their lives. These are the people we represent. It is time we listen to those who have helped shape this budget by raising their voices. Republicans continuing to defy the will of the people will not move our state forward.

"I applaud Governor Evers for his work to hear the needs of Wisconsinites and address them in his budget. I look forward to working with my colleagues to amplify the voices of my district throughout this budget process. To help our state recover after the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to take bold action to invest in our communities, our businesses, and our families. Let's get to work!"

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