



MELISSA AGARD  
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Senator Agard: Statement on Budget Signing**

*False Choices Lead to a Budget that Falls Short of Governor Evers' Original Proposal*

MADISON - Today, Governor Tony Evers announced his line item vetoes for the 2021-23 state budget. The budget was then signed, becoming Act 58. Additionally, he announced \$100 million of American Rescue Plan funds to address the education funding shortfalls.

Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement:

"The will of the people is the law of the land - this budget falls short of that. In February, Governor Evers proposed a historic budget that invested in the needs of Wisconsinites. It addressed what the people of our state deserve. Unfortunately, Republicans said no - they turned their back on the people by ignoring countless proposals that would positively impact people across Wisconsin. While Governor Evers was able to use his line-item veto power to make changes to better this budget, it is still disappointing that my GOP colleagues are governing as though the people of Wisconsin are not their boss.

"Throughout this budget process, we have been again and again confronted with this idea of providing the bare minimum versus making a downpayment on our state's future. Budgets are about priorities - we could have done both in this budget. We could have expanded Medicaid, legalized cannabis, created a non-partisan process for drawing legislative maps, invested in forward thinking transportation methods, provided historic funding for schools, invested in climate change initiatives, and so much more.

"While this budget provides one-time relief to Wisconsinites, it does not build the same foundation for our state's future that was in the governor's proposal. While it will make sure our bills are paid today, it does not plant the seeds for tomorrow that the people we represent want and deserve. We must work to ensure that we are helping every Wisconsinite reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

"I am grateful that Governor Evers was able to restore some funding for our public schools through the federal American Rescue Plan funds and make other changes through his veto powers. However, we should not have to settle for less - we must keep pushing for proposals that will positively impact lives across Wisconsin for generations to come."

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