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## **Hesselbein Statement on the Budget Passage**

*Republican budget actions are full of misplaced priorities, missed opportunities, and playing politics with Wisconsin's future*

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Assembly took up the biennial state budget today after the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee submitted their changes to Governor Evers' budget recommendation. Legislators debated a host of amendments before the final vote. The budget bill will now go to the state Senate before heading to the governor's desk. Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) released the following statement:

“As I listened to the debate today, one issue that is absolutely apparent is that my Republican colleagues are so focused on obstructing Governor Evers that they will throw Wisconsin's future under the bus just to score a partisan point against the governor. Each biennium the budget is the most important thing we do in the legislature. Unfortunately, this once-in-a-generation opportunity was squandered.

“We know Republicans didn't want to increase healthcare access, but to toss an extra billion dollars out the window just because they didn't want to expand BadgerCare? There were so many investments that could have been made in Wisconsin's economy with the extra one-time federal funding. Now that funding is gone.

“This budget provides less new funding for schools than even some of the Republican budgets under Governor Walker. This denial to invest in our students, even with a record amount of revenue available, is completely immoral. My Republican colleagues chose half-measures, partisan gimmicks, special handouts, and missed many of our best opportunities to move forward as a state.

“This budget will not provide us the most successful path for bouncing back. Rather, this budget fails to adequately fund public schools, higher education, and local government, while doing the minimum required to receive federal funding.”

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