



State Representative
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Representative Rhoades Statement on Removal of Policy Items from the Budget

(MADISON) – This afternoon, State Representative Kitty Rhoades (Hudson), the Assembly Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, issued the following statement on the removal of non-fiscal policy items from the 2007-2009 state budget proposal:

“This afternoon, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau released a memo listing the non-fiscal policy items to be removed from the biennial budget. This memo is the result of negotiations with Senator Decker and will allow us to come to the table and begin action on the state budget.

“The removal of these policy items are a victory for taxpayers throughout the state. In addition, the negotiations resulted in the removal of nearly \$18 million in fee increases, \$42 million in segregated fund transfers, and \$32 million in new transfers out of the Transportation Fund. Furthermore, we protected our families by eliminating the creation of a new unelected body that would have the power to release felons into our communities before they served their full sentence.

“These results should by no means be interpreted as support for the remaining excessive tax and fee increases contained in the Democrats’ budget proposal. Legislative Republicans remain committed to crafting a budget that lives within taxpayers’ ability to pay by working to eliminate the remaining tax and fee increases through the public Joint Finance Committee process, the Assembly version of the budget and the Conference Committee process.

“Assembly Republicans remain committed to making state government live within its means by serving as the last line of defense for Wisconsin’s taxpayers.”

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