



State Senator  
**Neal J. Kedzie**

11th Senate District

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## Taxpayers' Savings Exceed \$3 Billion

*No New Budget Means No Tax Hikes, No Fee Hikes, No Spending Hikes*

**Madison** – “As the Governor and the Democrats continue to travel around the state telling their ‘no new budget’ horror stories, I’d like to offer a story of my own – the taxpayers of Wisconsin have now saved more than three billion dollars” said State Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn). Kedzie says while the new budget has yet to be adopted, the state continues to spend at the level for the 2005-07 budget. Unlike other states, Wisconsin government does not shut down when the budget deadline has not been met.

“The Democrats are saying that Republicans don’t want to pass a budget – but that’s not entirely true,” said Kedzie. “We just don’t want to pass their budget!”

The budget proposed by Senate Democrats spends more than \$66 billion – a 23% increase over the previous budget of \$54 billion. Included in that version of the budget is more than \$18 billion of new or increased taxes and fees, but as long as things are delayed, none of that is implemented. After three months of no action, more than \$3 billion has been saved by Wisconsin taxpayers. The majority of those tax increases are tied up in one proposal to create a total government-run health care system at a cost of at least \$15 billion in new taxes on employers and employees.

Kedzie said the Democrats recently offered to drop their health care proposal in exchange for more than \$1 billion in other tax increases, an offer which was quickly rejected by the Assembly Republicans. Kedzie believes the massive health care proposal should be scuttled immediately without any trade-offs if the Democrats and the Governor are serious about moving this process forward.

“The Senate Democrats have driven this bus as far as they can go,” Kedzie concluded. “Only time will tell if they get off it, or get thrown under it.”

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