

Sen. Agard: Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee ignore the will of the majority, strip more than 500 provisions from Governor Evers' budget

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MADISON – Today, the Joint Finance Committee stripped hundreds of provisions from Governor Evers' proposed 2023-25 state budget. Republicans are shutting the door on Medicaid expansion, cannabis legalization, PFAS standards, and so much more.

Senate Democratic Leader Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement:

“Despite hosting four listening sessions throughout the state of Wisconsin, it is clear that legislative Republicans view these as a box to check rather than a time to actually listen and take action based on the needs voiced by Wisconsinites. It is shameful to see my Republican colleagues continuing to put special interests and politics over the people they serve.

“In contrast, the Governor's budget was crafted with input from ordinary people who make our state great. He included provisions that the majority of people support – expanded health care access, legal cannabis, common-sense gun safety reform, paid family leave, student mental health assistance, and so much more – each item removed from the budget with no further deliberation by JFC Republicans.

“It is irresponsible to legislate without listening to the people of Wisconsin, our

bosses. We cannot afford to continue ignoring the needs of our state. With a \$7 billion surplus, our state can and should do more to support the people that live here. My Democratic colleagues and I will continue to prioritize the needs of all Wisconsinites.”