



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Democrats Unveil K-12 Plan to Restore GOP School Cuts

(MADISON, WI) – With Wisconsin’s budget deadline just days away, Legislative Democrats on the Joint Finance Committee unveiled a funding plan for Wisconsin’s K-12 public schools today in the hopes of breaking the ongoing Republican stalemate. The plan invests \$729 million more in K-12 education than Gov. Walker’s proposal and lowers property taxes by nearly \$25 million.

“Wisconsin’s children are holding a 6 year-old promissory note, and the bill has now come due. Today, we should be voting to make good on the Republican’s promissory note to our children. Instead, Democrats are forced to bring forth a responsible education package that protects them from Republicans,” said Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee).

“If education is truly the biggest priority for Wisconsin state leaders, there should be no disagreement. Our motion provides the funding necessary to ensure that all schools and students throughout Wisconsin have the opportunity to succeed, and at the same time reduces property taxes statewide. The fact that the majority continues to stall and argue over adequately funding public education makes it clear this issue is still not a top priority for Republicans,” said Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh).

“Republicans led by Gov. Walker have cut more than \$1 billion from our K-12 public schools and now is the time to finally make our schools whole and fund schools as the priority they need to be. The illusion that Wisconsin has a dire budget situation is just that; there is more money in state coffers than ever. Republicans have simply chosen to cut funding for public schools even when they know it hurts our workforce, even when they know it hurts families and our future. This is simply unacceptable,” said Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton).

“Republicans have had six years to fund our public schools, and yet they’re still fighting over the budget because they aren’t willing to make public education their first priority. It’s time to make a real investment in public education that ensures all our children have the opportunity to succeed – and that’s exactly what the Democratic plan does. Our kids deserve a budget that puts them first,” said Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point).

MEDIA NOTE: A summary of the Democratic proposal and an audio recording of the JFC Democrat’s press conference announcing the plan are attached.

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