

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA SARGENT

48th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: May 2, 2019 Contact: Representative Melissa Sargent Email: Rep.Sargent@legis.wi.gov Phone: (608)-266-0960

Out of Touch GOP Once Again Ignores the Will of the People

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement condemning the GOP for their intent to strip the People's Budget of its most crucial components:

"Once again, my Republican colleagues here in the State Legislature have overridden the will of the people. Wisconsin voted for Governor Tony Evers back in November, yet time and time again we have seen the GOP working to strip away his power and threaten our state's democracy.

Not only did the people of our state vote for Governor Evers, but they voted in <u>referenda across the state</u> in overwhelming support of legalizing marijuana. They expressed their support again and again for Medicaid expansion, which would provide <u>access to healthcare for 82,000 Wisconsinites while saving \$324.5 million for our state</u>. They made their voices heard when it came to crucial issues such as education funding, transportation solutions, a fair minimum wage, tax relief for hardworking families, non-partisan redistricting reform, and more.

Unfortunately, the pleas of Wisconsinites have fallen on deaf ears, as the out of touch GOP continues to work to benefit the wealthy few rather than the hardworking people of our state. The impacts of this decision are striking— with the provisions that the Republicans plan to strip out of Governor Evers' budget proposal 82,000 people will not get needed health coverage, over 15,000 people will be arrested for marijuana possession in our state, and hundreds-of-thousands of workers will continue to make \$7.25 or below and struggle to provide for their families.

The will of the people is the law of the land, and we as elected officials have a duty to uphold the wants of our constituents- our bosses- and to work in the best interest of the people, not powerful special interests. I vow to do just that, and it is high time that my Republican colleagues do the same."

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Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48th Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff