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May 23, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School Nutrition Professionals Disappointed in JFC's Inability to Support School Breakfasts

The School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin (SNA-WI) is disappointed the Republican-controlled Joint Committee on Finance rejected Governor Tony Evers' budget proposal to fully fund the school breakfast program.

"It's a shame the Joint Committee on Finance continues to ignore the school breakfast program," said SNA-WI President, Mike Gasper. "School meal budgets across the state are strained. State statute calls for a 15-cent reimbursement per breakfast served, but due to the state's inaction to fund its obligations, schools only receive around 7-cents per breakfast served."

Studies show students who receive breakfast perform better in school and are more likely to graduate. However, current funding levels are threatening the sustainability of breakfast programs in Wisconsin's schools, which ultimately threatens the ability of Wisconsin's students to learn and succeed.

Current funding levels also discourage schools from opting into the school breakfast program. According to a 2018 report from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Wisconsin trails the nation in school participation in the school breakfast program.

"It's disappointing that the state is not funding its obligation. Despite the statistics regarding success of students who eat breakfast and the dismal ranking in the FRAC report, the Joint Committee on Finance once again ignored the school breakfast program," said SNA-WI Legislative Committee Chair, Caitlin Harrison. "I'm fearful for the schools around the state who are struggling to maintain their breakfast programs, and I'm even more fearful for the students who rely on these meals."

The School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin represents nearly 1,170 school nutrition professionals statewide who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to Wisconsin students. As a non-profit professional organization, our members are committed to developing the full potential of all children through quality nutrition.

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