



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

November 18, 2019

Senator Alberta Darling
Room 317 East
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Representative John Nygren
Room 309 East
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Senator Darling & Representative Nygren,

In conjunction with the letter you received November 14th, 2019 from Governor Evers, the Democratic Members of the Joint Committee on Finance call on you to convene a meeting of the committee to authorize and release the vital funding needed to meet the needs of homeless individuals across Wisconsin.

As you know, the Interagency Council on Homelessness, created under Governor Walker and chaired by former Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, made recommendations which need to be met with the requested funding of \$3 million GPR annually and \$500,000 PR annually. Despite the fact this legislation passed the Assembly, the Senate *refused* to consider legislation relating to homelessness (Assembly Bill 119) two weeks ago. As neither house of the legislature will be in session for the next two months, convening the Joint Committee on Finance is the fastest means to pass this legislation and assist Wisconsinites in need.

This request was submitted to the committee on July 15th, 2019, by the Department of Administration and is still awaiting action after 4 months. Since July, there have been multiple opportunities to have this request incorporated into the committee's agenda yet the majority party has failed to do so.

Governor Evers provided a detailed list of the critical programs these funds would be used for to operate. This list of programs includes funding increases for The Homelessness Prevention Program, State Shelter Subsidy Grants, the Housing Assistance Program, and the creation of grants for Housing Navigation and repairs for affordable housing, among others.

Please convene this committee as soon as possible to quickly release these funds. As we approach the Holiday Season when families across our state join together to give thanks, we cannot forget those that do not have a place to call home.

Sincerely,

Rep. Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District

Sen. LaTonya Johnson
6th Senate District

Rep. Chris Taylor
76th Assembly District

Sen. Jon Erpenbach
27th Senate District