

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 15, 2023

Contact: Representative Conley (608) 266-7503

## Representative Conley: Statement on Governor Evers' Biennial Budget Address

MADISON - Today, Governor Tony Evers delivered his biennial budget address to the Wisconsin State Legislature. In response, Representative Sue Conley (D-Janesville) issued the following statement:

"I applaud Governor Evers for proposing a budget that truly invests in Wisconsin's future well-being and shared interests. Thanks to years of hard work, Governor Evers' administration has put Wisconsin in the strongest financial position in history with a record-breaking \$7.1 billion surplus. The common-sense solutions that Governor Evers is proposing will help make our state a better place to grow up, learn, and live.

"I am pleased to see Governor Evers' robust investments in our local communities. His proposal continues the successful Main Street Bounceback program, which has been critical in providing support to small businesses in the Janesville community. Additionally, 20% of the state's sales tax revenue will go back to local communities for shared revenue. I have long advocated for an increase in shared revenue to invest in key priorities like EMS, police and fire, and I am thrilled to see these historic investments.

"I was also pleased to hear Gov. Evers highlight a 10% tax cut for the middle class, providing \$1.2 billion in tax relief for working families, seniors, individuals with disabilities and veterans.

"Wisconsin's public education system is vital to the future of our state, and Governor Evers continues to make it a top priority. His proposal includes an increase of more than \$2.6 billion for Wisconsin's public schools and a historic investment in special education. The "Get Kids Ahead" initiative as part of the Year of Mental Health will ensure that every child in Wisconsin has access to school-based mental health services. Caring for our kids' mental and physical health is vital to successful learning. His proposal to fully fund the *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids* program providing universal school breakfasts and lunches will ensure kids do not have to worry about when or whether they'll next eat.

"The Governor also recognizes that our justice workforce has been ignored for too long and proposes to invest nearly \$36 million to bolster our assistant district attorneys and public defenders, among other key positions.

"I look forward to seeing what Governor Evers' other investments in clean water, the conservation workforce, paid family leave and automatic voter registration will do for our state. Since Governor Evers has been in office, he has kept his promises and listened to the people of Wisconsin. This is truly a breakthrough budget. Now, it's time to get to work for the people of Wisconsin and deliver real change that moves our state forward."