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## WISCONSIN DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' ASSOCIATION

### GOVERNOR EVERS SIGNS HISTORIC BUDGET THAT ADDRESSES STATEWIDE PROSECUTOR SHORTAGE AND FUNDING MERIT PAY STEPS FOR PROSECUTORS

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Today, Governor Tony Evers signed the State Budget (Act 9) that historically addresses statewide prosecutor shortage and funds the State's promise to properly pay prosecutors in Wisconsin's 72 counties through merit-based step increases. The budget for the first time adds 64.95 additional FTE position authority to the budget to help DA offices that are understaffed which has caused justice to be delayed for victims and defendants.

The WDAA wishes to thank its Justice Coalition partners, Association of State Prosecutors, Office of State Courts, Department of Justice, Office of the Public Defender and their associated professional government liaisons. We especially wish to thank Senator Andre' Jacques who's commitment to our program was unwavering in this budget process. The WDAA also recognizes the leadership of Speaker Robin Voss, Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Rep. Mark Born, Senator Van Wanggaard and many, many other legislators and their staffs of both parties who provided key assistance in getting the prosecutor program properly funded and staffed. The WDAA also wishes to thank the Governor's staff including Maggie Gau and Stephanie Hilton for listening to our position and communicating it to Governor Evers.

Countless hours behind the scenes with our coalition partners and many late nights helped deliver this budget for prosecutors to help them focus on justice and remaining in the DA program as professional prosecutors who can financially plan for their futures.

**“District Attorneys statewide requested 139 additional prosecutors and this historic commitment by the Governor and legislature will significantly help manage crushing caseloads and provide justice faster to all parties involved in a criminal case,” said Louis Molepske, WDAA President.**

**“The budget provides full-funding for pay progression, a statutory merit-based pay plan for assistant district attorneys and deputy district**

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**attorneys. Prosecutors deserve to be able to plan for their families' financial futures and this budget will meet that goal through merit-based pay progression over the two year budget," Molepske said.**

**"Reducing the prison population and focusing on people can more readily be accomplished by having enough properly paid prosecutors in DA offices who can devote more time to their caseloads to reduce the revolving door of the criminal justice system by using modern evidence-based decision making to focus on offender rehabilitation first and incarceration as a last resort to protect the public," said Molepske.**

**"This is the best budget for prosecutors in the WDAA's and DA program's history. THANK YOU!" concluded Molepske.**

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