



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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September 22, 2020
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Gov. Evers' Misplaced Priorities Create Whiplash and Hurt Education...Again

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance released the following statement:

“Within the same week of state agencies submitting budget requests that sought over \$750 million in increased spending, Governor Evers announced \$301 million in onetime cuts,” Rep. Nygren said. “Gov. Evers administration is also telling private sector businesses to take a haircut to help balance the state budget. Again, Gov. Evers’ priority is government over taxpayers.”

Last Tuesday, state agency’s GPR budget requests totaled over \$750 million. On Friday, Gov. Evers’ administration sent a letter to lessors asking them to give the state a break on its rent saying, “the State of Wisconsin has experienced significant declining revenues resulting in a substantial budget shortfall.” In August, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported that tax collections for the 2019-20 fiscal year were down 0.6%, or \$112.6 million, compared to previous estimates.

“The ‘education’ governor is once again pounding education with budget cuts. Nearly one-third of Gov. Evers’ cuts are from education, mostly the UW System. Gov. Evers should also be thanking President Trump for the additional federal match that gave the state the ability to save \$120 million in state Medicaid funding.”

Of the approximately \$371 million in lapses that Gov. Evers has announced this year, \$103 million are from the UW System, technical colleges, or Department of Public Instruction. These cuts account for 28% of the total. The \$120 million in savings at the state’s Medicaid program is primarily attributable to the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) which increased Medicaid matching rates.

“Gov. Evers’ announcement lacks important details. What programs for low-income individuals and families will he cut? Programs being cut include the Veterans Trust Fund, Farm to School program, homelessness programs, and tourism marketing. At the same time, Gov. Evers has exempted Lt. Governor Barnes from any budget cuts.”

“Yet again, Gov. Evers’ budget decisions leave taxpayers wondering why he continues to prioritize government spending over taxpayers.”

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