



DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JFC Democrats: Workforce, Education Budgets Invest in Resilience, Recovery, and Rebuilding in Wisconsin

MADISON - Today the Joint Committee on Finance held the first of two days of agency briefings on Governor Tony Evers' Badger Bounceback Budget, featuring the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Workforce Development. The Committee heard testimony from both agencies about how the proposed budget invests in our kids, our working families, and our small businesses to move our state forward toward a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Democratic members on the Joint Finance Committee released the below statements following the conclusion of today's briefings:

"Governor Evers' budget proposal once again prioritizes that children have the opportunity to receive a quality education by investing in classrooms, special education services, mental health care, and rural schools," said Sen. Erpenbach (D-West Point). "For too long Republicans have expected schools, students and teachers do more for less and criticizing the very programs they have repeatedly underfunded. The Bounceback budget is critical to fully funding Wisconsin classrooms and helping our students recover and achieve success."

Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) stated, "The Governor's budget makes substantial investments in our K-12 schools, including investing more than \$709 million for special education aid. However, during today's agency briefings, Republicans did not seem to care about the importance of these investments. Instead, they spent their time lambasting DPI over achievement gaps that Republicans exacerbated when they refused to fund vital programs during the last budget. It's time for Republicans to stop the political games and support what families in Wisconsin have asked for."

Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee) said, "The GOP has spent more time litigating instead of legislating during the pandemic. The Governor's budget is a hopeful and future-focused budget that will help our state recover from COVID and take on long-term challenges the legislature has failed to address. Today Republicans spent time rehashing their arguments from the past year rather than looking forward."

Rep. Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) said, "While Republicans continue to focus on past political fights, today we heard a positive vision for what the next two years can bring if we pass the Governor's Badger Bounceback Budget. We can invest in resilience and recovery with historic funding for schools, for special education, and for students' mental health. We can fix our unemployment system after decades of neglect. We can help our workers and small businesses get back on their feet, with funding for training programs and green jobs. After today's briefings, I am excited about our state's future, and I hope that my Republican colleagues can put partisanship aside and support these critical provisions in the Governor's budget."

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