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Felzkowski Votes for Crucial Health Care Investments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Madison, WI – The Joint Committee on Finance took up the Department of Health Services budget Tuesday evening and voted on a number of initiatives to improve access to affordable, quality health care for all Wisconsinites. Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) made the following statement:

“A person’s health touches every other aspect of their life. One of the biggest reasons I serve in the legislature is to put policies in place that help people prioritize their health and lead their best lives,” said Sen. Felzkowski. “I was honored to help craft a budget that does just that.”

The health care budget that was passed on Tuesday includes the following provisions and more:

- Historic investments in long term care, including over \$250 million for nursing homes, and over \$180 million that will go directly to FamilyCare and Personal Care workforce.
- Unparalleled increases in dental care (a 40% increase over current levels) that will expand access to crucial oral health care across the state.
- Critical funding to help prevent futures gaps in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), especially in rural areas.
- \$40 million over the biennium to make continued investments in our state’s hospitals.
- Additional dollars to help Wisconsin’s Free and Charitable Clinics see more patients.
- Several provisions that will continue to address substance use disorders, behavioral health, and mental health treatment.

“We heard from constituents all over the state this year that our long term care providers are reaching a crisis point,” said Sen. Felzkowski. “What I am most proud of in this budget is our focus on investing in those providers and that workforce, maintaining and hopefully improving access to quality care for our elderly and disabled populations.”

The committee also voted on Tuesday to increase spending on broadband expansion in Wisconsin by \$125 million over the biennium and helping low income parents pay for child care at unprecedented levels. The committee plans to wrap up voting on the budget this week.

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