

<u>Amy Loudenbeck</u>

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Statement on JFC Passing 2021-2023 Biennial Budget

Madison – Today, Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) released the following statement on the Joint Finance Committee's action on the 2021-2023 biennial budget:

"This evening, the Joint Finance Committee passed our version of the biennial budget out of committee. Over the last several months the committee listened to our colleagues, our constituents, and people all across Wisconsin and used their input to guide our decision making process. The committee made strategic and vital modifications that resulted in a final package that invests in priority issues without raising taxes," said Loudenbeck.

Some key areas of investment include:

- Over \$2 billion in income tax cuts and over \$600 million in property tax relief
- Nearly \$170 million to support long-term care facilities and their staff
- Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for Dentists, Ambulance/EMS, Chiropractors, Physical Therapists, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, and Autism services
- Increased subsidies in Wisconsin Shares to double the percentage of child care slots that may be available to low-income families from 30% to 65%
- Reauthorized the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for four years at current spending levels, while cutting bonding by 1/3rd
- Boosted commitments to water quality by investing in the Well Compensation Grants, PFAS Firefighting Foam Disposal Grants, Dam Safety, and Producer-led Watershed Grants
- \$33 million in investments in critical emergency response and public safety infrastructure for Next Generation 911 and WISCOM upgrades and grants
- \$100 million for competitive grants for local transportation projects and an increase of 2% in each year for local transportation aids
- \$86 million to increase reimbursement rates for Special Education and an increase of \$19 million for student mental health
- In year two, this budget meets our goal of 2/3 state funding for K-12 education

"I'd like to thank my colleagues and staff for all of their hard work on this budget. We set out to improve upon what was proposed by Governor Evers and reflect the priorities of the Legislature as a whole as well as the unique needs of individual districts served by our members. This is a great budget for Wisconsin. It honors our current commitments and focuses on areas of agreement that benefit all of our citizens," said Loudenbeck.

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