



SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2021

Contact: Rep. Shae Sortwell
(608) 266-9870

Public Defender Case Backlog in Brown County: Governor Evers Needs to Send ARPA Funds Immediately

Madison – Representative Shae Sortwell (R-Gibson) released the following statement today regarding the ongoing case backlog the public defenders are facing in Brown County:

“Since the early part of last year when the coronavirus crisis became prevalent, the Brown County public defender’s office has seen a cumulative effect of cases continuing to come in, but not enough have been resolving to be able to continue making appointments. This has created a massive backlog of cases and has not been improving.”

“The State Public Defender’s office contacted me about this growing problem and requested Governor Evers to offer assistance with ARPA funds that he controls. To offer support of our public defenders, I am joined by Senators Jacque, Cowles, and Wimberger and Representatives Kitchens, Macco, Behnke, Steineke, and Steffen in sending a letter to Governor Evers today that requests his administration provides ARPA funds to them and resolve this concerning issue.”

“Not only do we need to help our public defenders reduce this backlog of cases, we need to maintain Wisconsinites’ constitutional right to a speedy trial. I hope the governor concurs and offers the assistance these people need.”

Representative Sortwell is available for comment.

###