



SONDY POPE-ROBERTS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2011

Contact: Sondy Pope-Roberts

608-266-3520

REP. POPE-ROBERTS INTRODUCES SAVE OUR SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

MADISON – Representative Sondy Pope-Roberts (D-Middleton) unveiled a fiscally responsible proposal on Tuesday that addresses current fiscal challenges while preserving Wisconsin’s commitment to public education. The “Save Our Schools” initiative takes advantage of recent positive budget projections by providing \$376 million for public schools and tech colleges while paying down debts neglected by the Republican majority.

The non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau recently reported that a rise in income tax collections has increased projected state revenue by \$636 million over the next three years.

“The recent LFB report further exposes the deception and outright falsehoods peddled by Governor Walker and Assembly Republicans that Wisconsin is broke, and has no choice but to gut public education, healthcare, and workers’ rights,” Rep. Pope-Roberts said. “Wisconsin certainly has fiscal challenges, but it does not require the austere, extreme, and reckless budgeting proposals Republicans have consistently advanced. This initiative demonstrates that preserving a strong public education system is not incongruous with fiscal responsibility.”

The Save Our Schools initiative allocates \$200 million to repay the Injured Patient’s Compensation Fund and reduces debt restructuring by \$100 million to clean up fiscal burdens largely ignored by Governor Walker and his legislative allies. The full amount owed to the Patient’s Compensation Fund was not included in the Governor’s budget adjustment bill but did include significant new bonding that will leave a future hole in state budgets.

The proposal implements State Superintendent Tony Evers’ Fair Funding proposal and ensures that no district will be worse off than under the proposed budget. It also eliminates the Voucher and Independent Charter expansions proposed in Governor Walker’s budget saving \$40 million.

“This initiative reduces property taxes statewide by reducing the share of education costs imposed on local communities,” Rep. Pope-Roberts said. “We are also eliminating the school levy credit and the first dollar credit to provide more funding for equalization aid to more equitably disburse scarce education dollars. I will continue to work for sensible stewardship of taxpayer dollars that recognizes our states’ financial obligations and budget priorities.”