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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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**REP. SEIDEL JOINS COLLEAGUES TO ANNOUNCE
ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Assembly Democrats' Plan Invests in Wisconsin's Priorities and Takes Care of our Responsibilities

MADISON – Assembly Democrats announced a plan to save public schools from draconian cuts proposed by Governor Walker and protect taxpayers at the same time. The proposal utilizes the recently projected increase in revenue to fund public schools and technical colleges, as well as repay state debts.

“Governor Walker continues to proclaim that the state is broke but the Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates the state will collect an additional \$636 million over the next three years,” said Rep. Donna Seidel (D - Wausau). “Budgets are all about choices and the recent revenue estimates give the governor an opportunity to choose Wisconsin’s children and workers over special interests and campaign donors.”

The cornerstone of the Assembly Democrats’ plan directs \$356 million toward public schools in Wisconsin. It implements aspects of State Superintendent Tony Evers’ Fair Funding proposal and ensures that no district will be worse off than under the proposed budget. The plan also eliminates the expansion of voucher schools, to ensure that we are supporting our public schools instead of sending \$40 million to private schools.

The Wausau School District would receive \$58,698,946 under this new plan, an increase of \$4.9 million over the Governor’s budget. D.C. Everest School District would receive \$43,978,422, an increase of \$3.3 million under the new plan.

“This investment in public education will alleviate some of the burden on local communities and result in property tax relief statewide,” Rep. Seidel explained. “Wausau area school districts and local taxpayers will both benefit from the Assembly Democrats’ plan. Under our proposal the vast majority of school districts in Wisconsin fair better than they do in the budget, so I would expect there to be strong bipartisan support.”

Additionally, the proposal takes care of the state’s responsibilities by using \$200 million to repay the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund. It also uses \$100 million to restructure the state’s bonding debt in order to avoid making new holes that would have to be filled in future budgets.

Building a skilled workforce is key to the economic development of our state. The proposal will restore \$20 million to the Wisconsin Technical College System to meet these training demands.

“At the recent budget hearing in Wausau we heard over and over about the devastating impact Governor Walker’s budget will have on our community including our schools,” stated Rep. Seidel. “This proposal responds to the pleas I heard from so many people and reflects my commitment to our shared priorities.”

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85TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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