



Russ Decker

Senate Majority Leader

For Immediate Release: March 20th, 2008
Contact: Russ Decker, (608) 266-2502 or (715) 359-8739

Senate Democrats Propose Compromise Budget Repair Bill

Madison – The Senate Finance Committee passed a compromise budget repair bill today that reduces state spending while protecting critical services for Wisconsin businesses and families. Senator Decker praised the Senate Finance Committee for finding a reasonable compromise that will close the budget gap without jeopardizing services that our state will need to weather the economic slowdown.

“The Senate budget repair bill is a good compromise to move our state forward during this challenging time. Our plan rewards good Wisconsin businesses by lowering the corporate tax rate and we pay for it by closing the Las Vegas Loophole. Closing loopholes that large, profitable businesses use to shove their tax bill onto the backs of small business owners in Wisconsin means we can lower taxes for those who play by the rules and make the tax code fairer for everyone,” said Decker.

The Senate version of the budget repair bill is a compromise of the two versions already offered by Governor Doyle and the Assembly Republicans. It retains the hospital assessment from Governor Doyle’s plan and the delayed school aid payment from the Assembly Republicans’ plan. The Senate version of the bill also uses less money from the state reserve funds than the Assembly version and has a better structural deficit total than all of the versions.

“The hospital assessment is supported by the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area Chamber of Commerce and it’s about time the Assembly Republicans got on board. The hospitals of our state are asking for it, but somehow Assembly Republicans think they know better than the people actually running the hospitals. Everyone except the Assembly Republicans recognizes that this will lower health care costs for Wisconsin businesses and families,” said Decker.

The state’s child-care assistance program would receive \$18.6 million to makeup a shortfall under the Senate version of the bill. It also protects funding for technical colleges, Shared Revenue, General and Categorical School Aids, Transportation, Compensation Reserves and the Department of Revenue without raiding segregated funds.

“We can get this gap closed quickly without jeopardizing the services businesses and residents of our state will need to get through this national economic slowdown. We still need to maintain our roads and bridges and allow our technical colleges to train the skilled workers that businesses need to expand if we are going to keep building our economy back up,” said Decker.

“Making sure our transportation projects are fully funded this summer will immediately provide 3,000 good-paying jobs with Wisconsin companies that employ Wisconsin workers. Our plan is the best way to make sure we are still making the investments we need for a strong economy,” concluded Decker.

###