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STATEMENT BY SENATOR MARK MILLER ON SENATE DEMOCRATS' BUDGET PLAN

“The Senate Democrats’ plan is a responsible, fair compromise. We tighten the state’s belt while maintaining essential services for Wisconsin’s hardworking families and businesses and reducing the structural deficit.

“We protect funding for our Technical Colleges, Shared Revenue, General and Categorical School Aids, Transportation, Compensation Reserves and the Department of Revenue.

“There are no raids on segregated funds in our plan.

“Our plan also has a lower structural deficit than both the governor’s and the Assembly’s version of the repair bill. This plan will result in the lowest structural deficit in the last 12 years.

“The Senate Democrats’ plan also lowers health care costs for Wisconsin businesses and families by securing more than \$400 million more in federal aid for our hospitals. This ensures the loss hospitals incur by serving Medicaid payments doesn’t get passed onto Wisconsin residents and business owners when they use hospital services. This part of our plan is supported by the Wisconsin Hospitals Association, the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the governor, a majority of the State Senate and we believe a majority of the State Assembly.

“Our plan provides \$18.6 million to fund a shortfall in the state childcare program that provides child-care assistance to low-income working families.

“We close a major loophole in our tax law to provide fairness for our Wisconsin businesses and at the same time, we reduce the corporate tax rate a tenth of a percent which represents a 1.26% tax cut. The Senate Democrats’ budget compromise is fair and responsible and will enable the full legislature to act quickly to solve the budget shortfall.”