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CHAIRWOMAN DIMITRIJEVIC'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Milwaukee – The state budget presented by Governor Scott Walker includes a number of positive items. We are excited with the grant funding for the VETransfer program, located in Milwaukee, which supports veteran entrepreneurs. We support the funding of the Hoan Bridge and the increase in funding for routine maintenance agreements. We believe the Family Justice Center project is important for ensuring victims of domestic violence and their families have access to services they need in an integrated and accessible way.

With the economy still in recovery, we do believe that we need to maintain services at an adequate level and are concerned about flat funding after the cuts to services in the last budget. More specifically, we are concerned about the continued hole in the child support budget.

While we are pleased that transportation infrastructure is getting funding in this budget, we obviously have concerns with flat funding for transit in light of its importance to rebuilding our economy by helping people get to and from work. Transit is an important facet of any transportation system, and it should be acknowledged as such. Dedicated funding for transit is more important than ever, and we hope the legislature will continue to discuss ways to provide security for the transit systems in this state.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to review the budget and look forward to participating in the upcoming public hearings on the state budget. We are hopeful the Joint Committee on Finance will continue its tradition of hosting a hearing in Milwaukee County, the largest county in Wisconsin.

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