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State Representative • 64th Assembly District

DEMOCRATIC LEADER - WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2005

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STATE REP. JIM KREUSER SAYS GOP WOULD HAVE APPLAUDED TOMMY THOMPSON IF HE GAVE IDENTICAL SPEECH

Governor Doyle has put forth a fiscally responsible and workable budget that not only addresses the budget deficit but moves forward on the state's priorities. Best of all Governor Doyle has focused his budget on kitchen table issues, like education and health care, fixed our budget deficit and done both without raising taxes and giving local governments the tools to hold the line on property taxes.

If Tommy Thompson gave the same speech the GOP would have stood and cheered. Two years ago, Doyle's tough choices and deep cuts got this state back on track. Because of these choices, we are now in a position where he can offer a budget that renews our commitment to Wisconsin's greatest priorities.

This is a budget that makes a long-term investment in our children and grandchildren. By expanding successful early childhood education and smaller class size initiatives, we will immeasurably strengthen the quality of schools. This budget also maintains our commitment to reliable health care and job creation by preserving BadgerCare and SeniorCare, and continuing to build an economic infrastructure that has made Wisconsin a leader in the Midwest.

Because of its focus on education and fully funding shared revenue, this budget will provide real, meaningful property tax relief. It is not a slogan. It is more than \$1 billion in savings to Wisconsin communities and homeowners. If that alone wasn't enough, the Governor's budget takes the next step of capping the amount property taxes can increase each year and provides financial incentives for communities that live within their means.

Governor Doyle's budget is a fair, balanced and responsible move for the state of Wisconsin. It is filled with tough choices, sound investments and real relief. I hope that the legislature and the Joint Finance Committee receive it with an open mind.

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