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Contact: Jessica Erickson, Governor's Office, 608-261-2156

Governor Doyle Announces Veto of GOP's 50 Percent Fee Increase on Teachers

Says It Is Time to End the 'War Against Teachers'

Governor Doyle announced today that he will veto the Republican 50 percent fee increase on teachers, which was one of a series of anti-education provisions added to the budget by Republican legislators. Their proposal would increase the fee for teacher licensure from \$100 to \$150. Governor Doyle made the following statement:

"It's clear that this Republican budget is anti-education. It started when, without scheduling a hearing or debate, Republicans stripped out a provision to repeal the unfair Qualified Economic Offer, which has driven Wisconsin's teacher salaries well below the national average and hurt our ability to attract and retain the best teachers for our students. Then they slashed 4-year-old kindergarten by \$46 million, and badly undermined our commitment to the SAGE program, an effort to reduce class sizes in the early grades. Republicans cut funding to our schools by a total of \$400 million. But to add insult to injury, Republicans imposed a 50 percent fee increase on teacher licensure.

"There is a long and unfortunate tradition of state Republican officials who have gone out of their way to attack educators, increase their fees, and limit their salaries. When I campaigned for Governor, I said it was time to end this destructive war against teachers. But unfortunately, this Republican Legislature hasn't gotten the message.

"It is shameful that Republicans tried to pick winners and losers in this budget, and went out of their way to sock teachers with a major fee increase. Not only are Wisconsin's teacher salaries already well below the national average, but our teachers also would have been forced to pay one of the highest licensure fees in the nation. It is unfair to teachers, but – like many other parts of their budget – it is also a tremendous disservice to our students.

"Because I believe it is time to end the war on teachers, I will veto the Republican unfair, unreasonable, and misguided 50 percent fee hike on Wisconsin's teachers."

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