



Wisconsin Values

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As State Budget Drags on 29 Organizations Rally Around Wisconsin Values *Need for Health Care, Child Care for Working Families, Local Government Services, Education Aids*

Madison - Urging the Legislative Budget Conference Committee to craft a budget that reflects the core values that make Wisconsin a great place to live, 29 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin residents held a media event today in the Capitol, highlighting “real budget” stories from across the state.

“The incredible diversity and collective strength of the organizations standing together today is amazing. For all of these organizations (representing teachers, students, union members, children, seniors, those with disabilities, domestic violence victims, and others) to unite in this way demonstrates the true shared interest all Wisconsinites have in the outcome of the state budget. These organizations represent Wisconsin’s values and we stand together today to call on legislators to preserve and enhance those values in the state budget they are crafting.” said Shel Gross, Survival Coalition.

“It may not be easy to be a legislator, but it is even harder to be a farmer waiting to find out if you will get health care for your family or a parent worrying whether or not they can afford child care while they work. This is about real peoples lives,” said Jill Jacklitz, deputy director, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

“What unites all of these groups – collectively representing hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin residents – is our shared desire for a state budget process that accurately and adequately reflects Wisconsin’s values. Wisconsin residents are asking that the leaders who work in this building, OUR Capitol building, emphasize the values which have made Wisconsin a great place to live,” said Pastor Debbie Huber, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Church in La Crosse.

Organizations Endorsing This Event Agree:

Like a household’s budget reflects a family’s priorities, Wisconsin’s state budget must reflect our shared priorities and values. However, our state’s budget process has so far revealed competing visions for Wisconsin’s future with regard to health care, education and human services.

We have come together to ask the state legislature to ensure that the state budget is firmly rooted in the values that have made Wisconsin great. As the legislature’s conference committee begins its deliberations this week, we raise our united voices to ask legislators to craft a biennial budget that reflects the value Wisconsinites place in strong communities, good schools, care for vulnerable populations, quality health care and childcare, and affordable higher education.

Organizations endorsing this event are united around the following Wisconsin values:

- **High quality early care and education and access to that care for all children, regardless of their parents' income;**
- **Safe children, nurturing communities and supports for those with disabilities;**
- **Quality, affordable health care for all residents;**
- **Access to higher education; and**
- **Strong public schools**

Speaking at the event are:

Pastor Debbie Huber, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Church in La Crosse
Laure Blanchard, Executive Director, Wausau Child Care, Inc
Steve Verriden, Wisconsin ADAPT
Laura Berger, City of Madison Public Health Nurse
Breggetta Wilson, Former Foster Youth, Milwaukee
Eoin Dillon, UW-Madison undergraduate student
Kelly McMahon, Milwaukee Public Schools kindergarten teacher

Organizations Endorsing the Event Include:

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) – WI
Americans for Democratic Action Education Fund
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)-WI
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)- WI
Children's Hospital & Health System
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Family Works Programs, Inc.
Hunger Task Force
Institute for Wisconsin's Future
Make It Work! Milwaukee Coalition
Milwaukee Child Care Alliance
National Association of Social Workers-WI Chapter
Planned Parenthood-WI
SEIU Wisconsin State Council
Survival Coalition
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)
Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)
Wisconsin Family Childcare Association
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV)
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA)
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Wisconsin Council on Children & Families (WCCF)
Wisconsin Counties Association
Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA)
Wisconsin Division of Early Childhood
Wisconsin Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association
Wisconsin Literacy