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WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON
**children
& families**
Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count



**CITIZEN
ACTION**
OF WISCONSIN

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Budget a Betrayal of Wisconsin Values

Madison: The 4 lead organizations that developed the Wisconsin Values Budget responded to the passage of the state budget tonight. The Wisconsin Values Budget balanced the state budget without draconian cuts by asking the wealthy and large corporations to pay their fair share.

“The budget that was just passed by the legislature is based on the false premise that Wisconsin has no choice but to balance the budget through deep, painful cuts to programs for children and families, said Ken Taylor, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

“Not only is it wrong to balance the budget on the backs of children, it is also short sighted from a deficit reduction perspective because these deep cuts will create additional problems that will cost more in the long run to address.”

“Governor Walker and the leaders of the Legislature have decided to put the demands of the wealthy and large corporations ahead of the prosperity and well being of Wisconsin’s workers, seniors, children, and people with disabilities,” said Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. “It is shameful to grant over \$2 billion in additional tax giveaways to large corporations and wealthy investors and at the same time make slashing cuts to education, health care, transit, and other vital services that increase opportunity, security, and freedom for all Wisconsinites.”

“The Legislature’s budget is a job-killing assault on the public structures a prosperous middle class depends on, such as education, health and strong local governments,” said Jack Norman, Research Director, Institute for Wisconsin’s Future (IWF). “Instead of more tax breaks for Wisconsin’s most prosperous individuals and corporations, legislators should have generated revenue from these sources in order to lessen the severe cuts.”

“Budgets aren’t just matters of arithmetic and account balances. They’re moral documents too,” said Joel Rogers, Director, Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS). “By telling us how a society

distributes the benefits and burdens of social cooperation, they tell us what it values and thinks is fair. This budget tells us that Wisconsin's current government thinks the best thing to do in tough times isn't to come together, be prudent, and share burdens with those who can shoulder them most easily, but to lash out at children and the poor, smack the middle class, weaken democratic institutions of all kinds, and shovel money to the rich and criminally irresponsible. That's no way to run a decent state. It's a disgusting betrayal of what made it great."

The Wisconsin Values Budget was endorsed by 35 non-profit organizations. It can be downloaded at citizenactionwi.org

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