

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Sen. Keyeski Responds to Governor Evers' 2025 Budget Address

MADISON – Tonight, Governor Tony Evers delivered his 2025 Budget Address and announced key budget priorities for his 2025-27 executive budget proposal. Senator Sarah Keyeski (D-Lodi) released the following statement in response:

"I was thrilled that one of the first priorities Governor Evers mentioned in his speech tonight was support for Wisconsin's farmers and the agricultural industry. I wholeheartedly agree with the Governor that farmers are the backbone of our state. Having grown up on a family dairy farm myself, I have seen first-hand the hard work, grit, strength, and fierce fortitude of farmers. They nourish our communities and contribute significantly to the economic success of our state — farmers are so deserving of our support.

"As a mental health care provider, I also know that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis cannot afford to wait long periods of time or travel great distances to get the care they urgently need to be safe. That is why I was particularly glad to hear the Governor is banning health insurance companies from requiring pre-approval for in-patient mental health services. Everyone deserves access to lifesaving care when they need it most, without delays.

"It's 'The Year of the Kid' and I was thrilled to hear the many ways that the Governor is investing in the health, safety, and wellness of Wisconsin's kids and families. Having strong public schools where *all* students can receive a high-quality education is such a crucial part of this. It was moving to hear Governor Evers speak about the dire situation the School District of Mauston is in, noting the referendum that was on the ballot in the Mauston community today. I am grateful that the Governor is including the highest-ever amount of special education aid funding in his budget, along with a guarantee that special education costs will be reimbursed at 60% by the state.

"I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure Wisconsinites can benefit from these important budget priorities."

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