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STATE OF WISCONSIN

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May 11, 2018

Agency Leadership:

Wisconsin is positioned to win the 21st century.

Today, more people are employed in our state than ever before, our unemployment rate is at an all-time low of 2.9 percent and household incomes are growing. Wisconsin is working.

For the first time in state history everyone living in poverty has access to health coverage, those uninsured are at an all-time low, and Wisconsin ranks first in the nation for health care quality. We acted to lower costs and improve access to individual health care markets while preserving BadgerCare and SeniorCare.

Wisconsin's students are excelling. High school graduation rates are up with ACT scores amongst the highest in the country. We invested more actual dollars into public classrooms than ever before. Rising performance was coupled with new investments in mental health and special needs so that every student can succeed.

We have worked to make college more affordable by freezing tuition for University of Wisconsin resident undergraduates for a record six years in a row while ensuring student financial assistance is at an all-time high. This reduces student debt and makes higher education possible for thousands of students.

We have moved more people from dependence to true independence through the dignity that comes from work by focusing on worker training and welfare reform. We expanded welfare-to-work opportunities and drug testing and treatment programs so those suffering from addiction can get healthy and back on their feet.

We made key investments in infrastructure from broadband to our roads, bridges, railways, and harbors. We created a broadband expansion grant program to connect more rural communities, and broadband now reaches more than 4.9 million people across our state. Today, 99 percent of Wisconsin's school districts have access to high-speed internet service.

Our pro-growth agenda has allowed us to provide more than \$8 billion in tax relief. Property and income taxes are lower today than they were in 2010, and our state tax burden is now the lowest in 50 years. Each fiscal year has ended with a surplus, and our rainy-day fund is at an all-time high. Our reforms have driven these results.

As you prepare your agency's 2019-21 state budget submission, please focus on the following ways to help the people of Wisconsin to win the 21st century.

We want Wisconsin to be one of the best states in America for millennials and for retirees. We are good now, but we want to be even better in the future.

We want our high school graduation rate to be the best in the nation with our students truly ready for college and their careers. And with unemployment levels at historic lows, we want Wisconsin to have one of the highest percentages of people in the workforce of any state in the nation. To do that, we need to make higher education more accessible and affordable whether it is through an apprenticeship or an associate, undergraduate or graduate degree.

We want Wisconsin to have some of the best health care systems in the country for quality. Along with that, we want Wisconsin to have one of the greatest reductions in opioid and illegal drug addiction of any state.

We also want to have a safe and reliable transportation infrastructure as well as access to high speed internet connections across the state.

We want Wisconsin's working families to be able to keep more of their take-home pay. To do that, we want to have one of the largest reductions in the tax burden for working families of any state in the nation.

All of this should be done while being good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

We will be aggressive in finding ways to identify savings to fund these priorities within the 2019-21 state budget. In addition, each agency is required, per the statutes, to propose budgets that are held at zero growth or with a five percent reduction to the base.

Thank you for your continued work in moving Wisconsin forward. Together, we will help the people of Wisconsin win the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Walker
Governor