



May 6, 2021



### [Wednesday Noon Live Audio/Visual Newsletter](#)

We begin with a special interview with Attorney Jan Miyasaki, Executive Director of Respect Madison. “We need to make sure that the anti-human trafficking movement intersects with the social and economic justice movement and the mass incarceration movement,” says Jan. She starts with some basic information about her work addressing the brutality in systems of prostitution and moves into addressing the complexities we don't always discuss.

### **The State Budget**

At the end of the video is a brief update on where we are in the budget. Correction in one place: The information as of yesterday should have been that the Joint Finance Committee "will be instructing the Legislative Fiscal Bureau of what to take out of the Governor's Budget." The Joint Finance Committee made a decision today on the long list of over 300 items to remove, including the following:

- Expanding BadgerCare by taking federal dollars
- Establishing the Office of Environmental Justice
- Establishing the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy
- Increasing funding for Focus on Energy Programs for Low Income Households
- Providing Real ID Non-Compliant Driver Licenses and Identification Cards for Undocumented Persons
- Returning 17-year old youth to the juvenile justice

To lift your voice to your legislators to encourage that some or all of these items remain in the budget, you can find our action alerts [Here](#). You may also reach your legislators by calling the Legislative Hotline: 608-266-9960 or toll-free: 1-800-362-9472.

Please note that it is possible that some of the items removed from the budget will return as separate bills. Regardless, many of us are disappointed by the proposed cuts. Today, an advocate from the Northwest Synod reminded us that we are in this for the long haul.

### **Refugees**

On hopeful note, President Biden raised the annual refugee admissions cap to 62,500 for this fiscal year. Even though it is unlikely we will actually resettle that many refugees in 2021, this is

a great movement forward from the cap of 15,000, and brings us closer to taking in the number of people we welcomed before the last administration. Faith groups, including the ELCA, played an important advocacy role in this.

## ELCA World Hunger Grants



For more information about the grants please go here  
<https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants>



Thank you for taking time with our newsletter!

Peace and be well,

Team LOPPW