Alderman Hines and Alderman Bauman Urge State Legislature to Be Consistent, Fair in Budget Repair Bill

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., and Alderman Robert Bauman today released a statement criticizing the State’s Budget Repair Bill for its political pandering and significant policy inconsistencies.

“Governor Walker and the Republican-led State Legislature profess to spearheading a reform agenda that will restore fiscal sanity to Wisconsin,” said President Hines. “However, the largest portion of every municipal budget – close to 70 percent for the City of Milwaukee – is exempt from these reforms. In order to have integrity and truly be responsible to taxpayers, the State Legislature must not create a caste system that favors particular unions over others, based on politics. Everyone should be at the table to solve these financial shortfalls.”

The two aldermen also took issue with the draconian proposal to entirely do away with collective bargaining and eliminate any safeguards to ensure worker’s rights.

“It’s one thing to ask government workers, including teachers, to make economic concessions at the bargaining table – it’s another thing to do away with the bargaining table completely,” said Alderman Bauman. “Many workers have already made economic concessions and are willing to make more, but they must retain their basic right to organize.”

As written, the Budget Repair Bill is deemed unfair and inconsistent by President Hines and Alderman Bauman, which is why they are in opposition.

###