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Rep. Conley: Statement on Eliminating Federal UI Supplement

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly met in regular session and took up Republican-authored legislation to eliminate federal unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for Wisconsinites. Rep. Conley (D-Janesville) released the following statement in response:

"We received the news this week from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau that Wisconsin is projected to bring in \$4.4 billion more in revenue in the coming years thanks in large part to the American Rescue Plan Act, federal UI benefits for unemployed Wisconsinites, and Covid-19 vaccination efforts. This underscores the unprecedented positive impact of President Biden's and Governor Evers's leadership for our state.

"Despite this news, however, Assembly Republicans voted to eliminate the federal UI benefit for Wisconsin. This is truly discouraging. The federal UI supplement continues to help unemployed Wisconsinites make ends meet by providing funds for basic necessities like food, catching up on rent and utility bills, and paying for child care so they can look for work. New UI claims have dropped to their lowest levels since before the pandemic hit Wisconsin in March 2020.

"According to the economic research team at JP Morgan, the decision to cut federal unemployment benefits is, "tied to politics, not economics." We need to create real solutions for our workforce by providing family sustaining wages, access to quality and affordable childcare and transportation options."

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