



BARBARA DITTRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Moving Wisconsin Forward & Putting the Pandemic Behind

Rep. Dittrich applauds the Assembly for helping our workforce recover

Madison –Representative Barbara Dittrich (*R – Oconomowoc*) issued the following statement regarding the passage of Assembly Bill 336:

“Since early February, I have been hearing from frustrated employers throughout Wisconsin and the 38th Assembly District who are desperate for workers. However, the enhanced federal unemployment benefits are creating a financial incentive for individuals to not return to work. The resulting lack of employees is causing a ‘workforce emergency’ which is forcing companies to turn away business and in some cases close their doors. Additionally, the employee shortage is placing a strain on the individuals who are working – often forcing them to work extra shifts to offset to workload.

“Employers can’t wait until the sunset of this enhancement, scheduled for later this fall, as many can barely keep their doors open for lack of employees NOW. It’s unconscionable that even part-time employees are collecting this full-time enhancement.”

AB 336 terminates Wisconsin’s participation in the following federal supplemental unemployment insurance (UI) programs, effective as soon as these agreements with the federal government can be terminated (~30 days). The programs that will be terminated are as follows: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA); Pandemic Emergency Unemployment compensation (PEUC); Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC); and the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC). Additionally, AB 336 ensures UI beneficiaries continue to actively seek employment through work search requirements. Specifically, it provides DWD from waiving the work search requirement to receive UI benefits for any reason that is related to COVID-19.

Our unemployment system was always designed to be a temporary benefit for individuals who lost a job through no fault of their own, while they search for work. Unfortunately, federal benefits in wake of the pandemic have disincentivized individuals finding work by lengthening the maximum benefit period and increasing overall benefit amounts. With the economy improving, this bill makes a prudent step towards returning our state back to a sense of normalcy and encouraging people to return to work.

“I am passionate about keeping Wisconsin working and thriving. Ending this enhanced benefit would be a positive step towards that goal. The action taken by the Legislature today to return our workforce and economy to its vibrancy is not mean-spirited; we are simply being responsive to our constituents in trying to mitigate lengthening the effects of the pandemic any longer,” concluded Rep. Dittrich

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