

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Jodi Emerson: Statement on AB 336

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed Republican-authored legislation to eliminate federal unemployment insurance benefits for Wisconsinites. Rep. Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) released the following statement in response:

“The American Rescue Plan’s bonus unemployment benefit is making a real difference for countless families across Wisconsin. Thanks to the Biden Administration’s bold action, many Wisconsinites have the support they need to get back on their feet as our state emerges from the COVID-19 crisis. An additional \$300 per week can save a family from having to choose between paying for groceries and paying for rent. Unemployment is falling, state revenues are up, and the economy is growing – the American Rescue Plan is working. Work is about far more than just a paycheck - it is a powerful source of dignity and pride for millions of Wisconsin families. Republicans who accuse unemployed Wisconsinites of not wanting to work are simply out of touch with reality.

“Democrats understand that Wisconsinites are eager to get back to work at family-sustaining jobs with decent pay and working conditions. Unfortunately, not all industries have rebounded from the pandemic. Instead of cutting off the benefits that are keeping peoples' heads above water, we should instead be working to break down the barriers that prevent people from finding good employment, like a lack of accessible child care, poor safety conditions, and low wages and benefits.

“Unfortunately, after more than a year of obstructing common-sense efforts to combat the pandemic, legislative Republicans are now taking steps to undermine our recovery by cutting off the unemployment benefits Wisconsin families have been promised. Although our state is on the path back to normalcy, the effects of the pandemic still endure, and many Wisconsinites are still struggling financially. Our state government has a responsibility to support our all people of Wisconsin, not deny them their promised benefits to make a political point.”

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