



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **KRISTINA SHELTON**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 9th, 2021

For More Information, Contact:

Rep. Shelton, 608-266-0616

Rep. Kristina Shelton: Statement on Assembly Floor Session

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

“We received the fantastic news this week 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 and to federal UI benefits for unemployed Wisconsinites. This underscores the unprecedented positive impact of President Biden’s and Governor Evers’s leadership for our state.

“Despite this news, Assembly Republicans today voted to eliminate the federal UI benefit for Wisconsin. This is truly disappointing, as we know the UI benefit, like ARPA, is helping working people and their families recover from the pandemic.

“My office received numerous communications from local businesses expressing ongoing frustration regarding their struggle to fill open employment positions. Their struggle is legitimate - employers across Wisconsin desperately need workers to produce goods, to offer services and to keep businesses open. Unfortunately, the research shows that eliminating the federal supplemental UI benefits for Wisconsinites will not get to the root of the issue. This legislative action will not magically fill the thousands of open positions. Why? Because the workforce shortage is not a new challenge. Long before the COVID-19 pandemic – when Wisconsin’s unemployment rate was nearing record lows – many businesses expressed frustration at not being able to find enough workers at the wages they were offering.

“We can and must be recruiting, retaining and exciting working families to relocate to our state in order to help sustain our economy. We need to be pulling individuals into the workforce who have been traditionally left out, such as those with disabilities. Further, significant barriers such as a lack of childcare and transportation continue to persist and must be addressed in the effort to fill employment opportunities for all Wisconsinites, regardless of their zip code or background. I look forward to working in a bipartisan manner to address these persistent barriers so that every person can access dignified, living-wage work that uplifts their passions and skill-sets.”

###