



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Lisa Kaiser (414-270-2999; lkaiser@communityadvocates.net)

Date: January 18, 2019

Community Advocates Endorses Senator Wyden’s Bill to Create Transitional Jobs

Milwaukee—Community Advocates strongly supports the [ELEVATE Act](#), legislation introduced this week by Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon to create a federal transitional jobs program and put in place other job-creating measures.

“We are very excited to see the growing support in Congress for transitional jobs,” said Community Advocates CEO Andi Elliott. “Congratulations to Senator Wyden and his colleagues, in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, for proposing an exciting plan to offer wage-paying jobs to the nation’s unemployed.”

The ELEVATE Act—short for “Economic Ladders to End Volatility and Advance Training to Employment” Act—would create a new federal-state program to enable unemployed adults to work for up to six months in wage-paying jobs in either the public or private sector.

ELEVATE also would provide opportunities for job training and “wraparound” services, such as child care, to help jobseekers ultimately move into unsubsidized employment. The bill includes additional provisions to reward employers who retain ELEVATE-hired employees for 24 months, help individuals to pay for the cost of moving within or between states to improve job prospects, and receive self-employment assistance to start their own businesses.

Community Advocates continues to work closely with Wisconsin’s U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin on parallel legislation to create a federal Transitional Jobs Program, as well as improve the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Senator Baldwin’s legislation, co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey and known as The Stronger Way Act, was reintroduced in 2017 as Senate Bill 1938.

“The low-income clients that Community Advocates assists will benefit enormously if Wisconsin had in place a comprehensive transitional jobs program,” Community Advocates COO Maudwella Kirkendoll explained. “For many of our clients, the biggest obstacle is the challenge of finding paid work.”

“We are very pleased that Senator Wyden has taken the initiative to draft the ELEVATE Act and present it to Congress,” added Julie Kerksick, Senior Policy Advocate at Community Advocates Public Policy Institute. “It was very exciting to see transitional jobs grow from an experiment in Milwaukee, the New Hope Project, into the small program we now have at the state level in Wisconsin. The leadership that Senator Baldwin and Senator Wyden are providing in taking transitional jobs to the federal level is an important step in the right direction.”

###