JON ERPENBACH

STATE SENATOR

For Immediate Release
May 18, 2017
Contact: Senator Jon Erpenbach
608-266-6670

Statement of Senator Jon Erpenbach on Joint Committee on Finance Democrats motion to provide state funding for free tuition for Wisconsin Technical College students.

"We know that a skilled workforce is what Wisconsin needs to boost our economy and free tuition at our Technical Colleges is a great way to get there. By 2020, nearly 70 percent of all jobs will require some kind of post-secondary training, certificate, or degree. Joint Committee on Finance Democrats know the barrier for people seeking to enter the workforce is financial. Let's just remove that barrier. Our technical colleges work with businesses to provide programs for education and training specifically needed in that community. Technical Colleges are responsive and nimble in helping to meet workforce needs. If we really want to help both businesses and our citizens, we should prioritize free tuition at our Technical College schools in this state budget. To rebuild our economy and the middle class communities that drive that economic engine, we need to offer unrestricted opportunities for education and training at our Technical Colleges."

For information on what other states have done to offer free tuition at technical colleges visit NCSL: http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/free-community-college.aspx

This motion failed to pass 4-12

On the Circus World Museum state support passage:

"I am happy that the Joint Committee on Finance sees the historical value to the state of Wisconsin that the Circus World Museum provides. The museum is part of the fabric of the Baraboo community in the 27th Senate District and this action will keep the doors open to all. The circus is such a big part of our past and the world class exhibits at the museum help ensure this story is told in the future."

Senator Jon Erpenbach was a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Circus World Museum which recommended state support for the Museum.