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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Rep Hebl's Statement on the Failed Veto Override of Assembly Bill 336

(MADISON) – On Tuesday, July 27th, Wisconsin Republicans failed to override Governor Evers' veto of Assembly Bill 336. Assembly Bill 336 would have removed Wisconsin from the federal pandemic unemployment assistance programs for Wisconsin workers who lost work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rep Gary Hebl (Sun Prairie) released the following statement regarding the failed veto override:

Wisconsin absolutely has an issue attracting workers. It was an issue well before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Former Governor Walker unveiled a plan in 2017 to try to lure more workers to Wisconsin. In fact, Wisconsin's labor force participation rate in June 2021 (66.3%) is actually higher than it was in February 2020 (66.2%), just before COVID began to necessitate lockdowns. The data is very clear that enhanced federal unemployment benefits are not the cause of Wisconsin's workforce woes.

What we must prioritize is making Wisconsin an attractive place for people to work in. People have seen the direction Republicans have taken Wisconsin since they took control in 2011 and it's making them hesitant to move here. Our number one focus should be enacting policy that matters to Wisconsin workers.

Workers want a state that will treat them with respect, not the hostility Republicans have shown to them over the last decade. They also want to live somewhere their children can get a quality education. Republican cuts to public education year after year mean they may not view their career going through Wisconsin. Clean drinking water and clean air are other areas where we must do more work to entice people to come and stay in Wisconsin, and they are areas in which Republican policy is severely lacking.

It is true Wisconsin has a worker shortage, but it has nothing to do with enhanced federal benefits. We must focus on showing workers that our state is the right place for them. We cannot continue to blame workers- who lost their job through no fault of their own- and characterize them as lazy loafers. We need to respect our workforce, and in doing so we will make Wisconsin an attractive place to come and work.

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