

TO: Legislative Colleagues
FROM: Senator Feyen and Representative Ballweg
DATE: January 10th, 2019
RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB-0235/1, relating to: career and technical education incentive grants and making an appropriation
Deadline: Friday, January 18th, 2019 at 5 pm

The Talent Pipeline Package: Bill 4

2013 Wisconsin Act 59 established a grant program to promote career and technical education programs in high schools. The idea behind the bill was to identify industries and occupations that face workforce shortages, approve industry recognized certification programs that will address the workforce shortages, and to grant awards of \$1000 per pupil to school districts for each completed, industry-recognized certification program completed. \$3 million dollars per fiscal year of Fast Forward money was appropriated in order to fund the grant. \$500,000 of additional funding was added in the 2017-2018 biennial budget.

The 2014-2015 school year was the first year that school districts could apply for the grants. The Class of 2017 had 5,525 valid applicants. Therefore, for each valid applicant school districts received \$633.48, \$366.52 fewer dollars than the legislature intended when creating the program. It is projected the amount of money will continue to shrink as school districts continue to graduate more students with industry-recognized certificates. The program is working, students are graduating with the skills employers need, and now the legislature needs to step in and continue to support a winning initiative.

LRB 0235/1 increases the appropriation to at least \$7,000,000 per fiscal year. This bill would ensure Wisconsin is supporting technical education in high schools, growing a qualified workforce, and doing so in a manner that ensures school districts are only receiving dollars when they've proven their students are prepared.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation please contact Senator Feyen's office at Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov or 6-5300 or Representative Ballweg's office at Rep.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov or 6-8077 by Friday, January 18th. All co-sponsors will be added to the Senate and Assembly versions of the legislation unless specified otherwise.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Workforce Development to allocate at least \$7,000,000 in each fiscal year for career and technical education incentive grants to school districts. Under current law, DWD may award an incentive grant to a school district in which students successfully completed certain industry-recognized certification programs approved by DWD. Currently, DWD must allocate at least \$3,500,000 in each fiscal year for the incentive grants. The bill also increases the appropriation by \$3,500,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and fiscal year 2020-21 to fund the incentive grants.

