

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Robyn Vining and Wisconsin Democrats Go Big for Small Business

MADISON-Today, State Representatives Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa), Francesca Hong (D-Madison) and Kalan Haywood (D-Milwaukee), with State Senators Brad Pfaff (D-Onalaska) and Melissa Agard (D-Madison) introduced a bill to create an online portal for Wisconsinites to access information related to starting, maintaining, and growing a small business. This website is aimed to be a "one-stop shop" for anyone in Wisconsin who has an interest in creating a new business, and for current business owners who want a more streamlined process with state agencies. Rep. Vining released the following statement in regards to this legislation:

"As a small business owner, and from my conversations in the community about the difficulties small business owners face, I understand what it takes to start and run your own business from the ground up. Right now, the state has different resources to make it easier for business owners, but the information is spread out. This bill creates a one-stop shop for all the information a business owner needs.

"Per the 2020 census, 99.4% of businesses in Wisconsin are small businesses. Nearly half of the state's workforce is employed by a small business and about 500 new businesses have formed per month since the Summer of 2020, up from 300-400 before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's clear that Wisconsin is a small business state and rising entrepreneurs need cutting edge digital tools to help them stay competitive, now more than ever. By making simple changes to the state's online presence, the legislature can help out struggling businesses, make state agencies more accessible, and create new good paying jobs in the process.

"From the dedicated entrepreneur in the Driftless Region to the nursing mother at home juggling a new business during naptime in their Wauwatosa bungalow, everyone deserves a chance to follow their dreams—or even earn some extra cash to pay for diapers. Let's go big for small business and move forward, *together!*"

Rep. Vining represents the 14th Assembly District, which includes parts of Wauwatosa and West Allis. For more information, visit Rep. Vining's website here.

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