



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Media Release

For Immediate Release
October 31, 2016

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Democrats Release Minority Report on Taskforce on Youth Workforce Readiness

MADISON – The Democratic members of the Speaker’s Taskforce on Youth Workforce Readiness, led by Vice Chair Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), released a minority report today in which they outlined their priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

The official taskforce report, which was released by Chair Bob Kulp (R-Stratford), fails to provide substantive policy recommendations and does not address many of the concerns raised by stakeholders. Democratic members of the taskforce, who comprise one-third of the total taskforce membership, were not offered the chance to read the report until two hours prior to its release.

“It’s clear that we have a lot of work to do to strengthen Wisconsin’s workforce pipeline and tackle the projected workforce shortage,” said Vice Chair Shankland. “We can have a positive impact on the economy by proactively working together on workforce investment.”

“The taskforce heard from educators, business owners, and workforce development experts across the state who told us about the struggles they are facing with recruitment and retention,” continued Vice Chair Shankland. “While we would have preferred to release a report with strong bipartisan recommendations, we are proud of our minority taskforce report and look forward to tackling these issues in the upcoming legislative session.”

The Democratic minority report outlines comprehensive policy recommendations relating to career exploration opportunities in skilled trade and manufacturing careers; career and technical education programs; industry partnerships; bridges between Youth Apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships; dual enrollment and credit transfer programs; special education job developers; expanded public transit options; and fair funding for public schools.

“We ask the legislature to consider our proposals and take concrete steps to create a skilled Wisconsin workforce with strong opportunities to succeed,” said Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit). “We look forward to continuing to advance these recommendations in partnership with the many workforce development boards, educational institutions, students, and parents who share this goal.”

A copy of the Democratic Minority Report is attached.

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