Media Release

Rep. Shankland, Rep. Sinicki, Rep. Ohnstad, & Sen. Johnson Introduce *Workers First* Legislative Package

MADISON – Today, Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), Rep. Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha), and Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) introduced their "Workers First" labor package.

The package includes ten bills that prioritize many of the key issues impacting Wisconsin's workers and will help ensure every worker in Wisconsin has access to fair wages, good benefits, workplace protections, and a high quality of life. Following a press conference announcing the "Workers First" bill package, they released the following statement:

Rep. Chris Sinicki stated, "*Today, Democratic legislators, in partnership with Wisconsin's labor community, outlined a legislative agenda that puts workers first by focusing on fair wages, good benefits, workplace protections, and a high quality of life. For too long, the majority party in the Wisconsin State Legislature has rolled back worker rights, undermined local control, and attacked the economic well-being of our working families.*"

"*Across the country and in every corner of Wisconsin, we have seen workers organize and win,*" said **Rep. Shankland.** "*From the historic UPS deal that the Teamsters secured to Local 662's recently ratified contracts at Leinenkugel's and New Dairy-Select Milk, they have shown us that workers will not back down from a fight. At the same time, strike actions are up by nearly 50% in our country, and an overwhelming majority of Americans support unions. This shows that people are increasingly recognizing the value of labor unions and understand that when workers win, everyone wins,*" added **Rep. Katrina Shankland**.

"*With the slate of bills introduced today, our goal is to ensure the needs of labor and workers are prioritized in the Legislature. We believe that as Wisconsin continues to experience a severe workforce shortage, it is crucial that the state government advance pro-worker policies to help recruit and retain a skilled workforce,*" said **Rep. Tod Ohnstad.**

"*As leaders, we stand ready to work with our colleagues across the aisle to pass these commonsense bills that would greatly improve working conditions for workers throughout the state. To put it plainly, it is well past time we put workers first in Wisconsin,*" concluded **Sen. LaTonya Johnson**.

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See below for a summary of the legislation included in the "Workers First" labor package.

1. **(Cabrera/Larson) Reinstatement of collective bargaining for public employees**

- Restores collective bargaining over wages, hours, and conditions of employment for public employees.

2. **(Sinicki/Spreitzer) Repeal Right to Work**

- Repeals Right to Work law.

3. **(Shankland/Carpenter) Prevailing Wage**

- Provides a uniform prevailing wage rate and prevailing hours of labor requirements.

4. **(Sinicki/Johnson) Employee Compensation Information**

- Prohibits employers from soliciting information on a prospective employee's salary history and disallows various forms of employment discrimination/retaliation against an employee who exercises their rights under this provision.

5. **(Sinicki/Johnson) Equal Pay Enforcement**

- Empowers employees and prospective employees who have faced discrimination to bring action in circuit court in addition to filing an administrative complaint.

6. **(Shankland/Hesselbein) Project Labor Agreements**

- Restores project labor agreements by repealing 2017 Wisconsin Act 3.

7. **(J. Anderson/Larson) Prohibiting Non-Compete Agreements**

- Prohibits non-compete agreements in worker contracts.

8. **(Subeck/Johnson) Local FMLA**

- Allows the enactment of local family and medical leave ordinances.

9. **(Subeck/Hesselbein) Local Minimum Wage**

- Allows the enactment of local minimum wage ordinances.

10. **(Ohnstad/Smith) Local Employment Regulations**

- Repeals the provisions in 2017 Wisconsin Act 327 that prohibit local governments from regulating employment benefits, hours of labor and overtime, wages, etc.

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