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## Bipartisan committee approves Wisconsin CORE Jobs Act

*Journal staff*

The Wisconsin CORE Jobs Act was passed unanimously Thursday by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance.

Senate Bill 409 was authored by Sen. Julie Lassa, D-Stevens Point, Sen. Pat Kreitlow, D-Chippewa Falls, Rep. Louis Molepske Jr., D-Stevens Point, and Rep. David Cullen, D-Milwaukee. CORE stands for "Connecting Opportunity, Research and Entrepreneurism."

"This was an important vote, because it showed strong bipartisan support by members of both the Senate and Assembly," said Lassa, who is a member of the Joint Finance Committee. "The urgent need to revive Wisconsin's economy and create good-paying jobs is bringing all sides together over this bill."

Barb Fleisner, executive director of Centergy, or Central Wisconsin Alliance for Economic Development, said her company officially endorsed the proposal at the end of December. Centergy partners with organizations such as the Portage County Business Council and the Stevens Point Association of Downtown Businesses to help grow and attract business to central Wisconsin.

Centergy is joined in its support by the Wisconsin Business Council, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the Wisconsin Economic Development Association, BioForward, the Wisconsin Technology Council, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

"We're very much in support of this bill, and we see it as greatly helping central Wisconsin," Fleisner said.

She said the bill would be positive in a number of areas, such as increasing Angel Tax Credits, investment incentive for green manufacturing jobs and incentives to reopen factories for energy production.

The bill also would assist the WiSys Technology Foundation Inc. -- a subsidiary of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation that promotes, encourages and aids scientific investigation and research throughout the University of Wisconsin System -- in its efforts to encourage more work with UW System professors toward research and applied science in industry.

According to a release from Lassa, the bill is structured around three goals: creating new jobs and businesses, retaining and building existing Wisconsin businesses, and educating and training the work force. Provisions in the bill include expanding the Accelerate Wisconsin program by adding \$3 million more in tax credits for 2010, a microloan program to help entrepreneurs start their own small businesses, and creating an employee education investment tax credit.

The committee also approved an amendment that increases the incentives for venture funds to invest in new Wisconsin businesses, and allows the Department of Commerce more flexibility in allocating job creation tax incentives and grants.

Fleisner said Centergy is prepared to get started immediately should the bill ultimately be passed and signed by Gov. Jim Doyle.

"We have projects teed up and ready to go," Fleisner said.

### Additional Facts

On the Net

For more information on the Wisconsin C.O.R.E. Jobs Act, visit [www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sdc/CORE/](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sdc/CORE/).

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