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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2024

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New Law Assists Visually Impaired to Join Workforce

Legislation provides work-related transportation tax credit for the blind

Madison, WI – A transportation tax credit to help cover the costs of getting to and from work for people who are legally blind is now state law. State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield) authored the bipartisan bill, which passed the Legislature with overwhelming support, to help combat the transportation barrier to employment within this community. Roughly [70% of individuals](#) with visual impairments are unemployed.

“This new law is all about removing barriers for those who want to work,” said Rep. David Steffen. “The logistical and financial challenges of getting to and from work is a primary reason so few in the visually impaired community are employed.”

The legislation creates a non-refundable tax credit for individuals who are legally blind (as defined by the IRS) to cover up to 50% of their work-related transportation costs. The credit is capped at \$1,500 per tax year. The bill is supported by advocates at Beyond Vision, WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, as well as the Wisconsin Economic Development Association.

“Members of this community have the abilities, skills and talents that our workforce desperately needs—I’m elated to see this smart investment signed into law,” said Rep. Steffen.

For more information, please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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