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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 29TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MBLY

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Rep. Clint Moses votes for workforce recovery legislation

Madison...Representative Clint Moses (R-Menomonie) voted for legislation to encourage unemployed individuals to return-to-work as businesses navigate a worker shortage. The <u>bill</u> ends Wisconsin's participation in federal unemployment compensation enhancement programs which dis-incentivize returning to work.

"Every business owner I have talked to has told me their biggest issue for them currently is finding people to hire. Employers throughout our state are desperate for workers," Rep. Moses said. "At a time when we need as many people as possible in the workforce, federal enhancements only keep people on the sidelines."

The bill ends Wisconsin's participation in the following federal programs:

- Pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA) program
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment compensation (PEUC) program
- Federal pandemic unemployment compensation (FPUC) program
- Mixed earner unemployment compensation (MEUC) program

The federal supplement provides an additional \$300 per week on top of state benefits. Currently 25 other states have opted out of the federal enhancers, which are set to expire on September 6, 2021.

The bill also ensures that individuals who file for Unemployment Insurance are actively searching for a job to be eligible to collect benefits. The governor waived that requirement last year through an emergency rule.

"Many employers have increased wages and are even offering sign-on bonuses," Rep. Moses said. "They shouldn't be competing with the government to attract enough workers to stay open."

According to an <u>SR Poll Results</u> report, 71 percent of voters favor ending the enhanced federal unemployment payments. This includes 67 percent of Independents and 59 percent of Democrats. If the legislation is signed by Governor Evers, the Wisconsin unemployment compensation program will return to pre-pandemic operations and provide an ongoing safety net for those who truly need it.

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The 29th Assembly District includes portions of Dunn and St. Croix Counties including the communities of Baldwin, Boyceville, Glenwood City, Menomonie, New Richmond, and Woodville.