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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JFC Invests in Workforce Access Initiatives

Madison – The Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) met today to take action on 19 initiatives that address a wide range of topics, including investments in programs that will break down barriers to employment, agriculture and tax reforms.

“The workforce shortage, and secondary impacts like inflation and supply chain issues, continue to be what I hear about most from my constituents,” Representative Born said. “The action by the committee today prioritizes funding programs that will break down barriers to employment to maximize participation in our workforce.”

The largest investment on the agenda is a plan for \$194 million to go into the child care industry. The plan primarily funds initiatives for retention and recruitment of child care staff and increasing the availability of child care. The programs aim to ensure working parents have access to reliable care in their community.

In addition, the committee approved funding for grants for nurse educators. The program, run through the Higher Educational Aids Board, will increase the number of nurse educators throughout the state at various higher education settings to reduce the nursing shortage.

The Committee also took action on several substance use disorder (SUD) treatment initiatives to help those struggling with addiction get back on track to fully participate in their families, communities and the workforce. These investments, which build on the HOPE Agenda, will help individuals find treatment that fits their needs in their community; improve access to methamphetamine treatment and increase provider knowledge and collaboration on treatments specifically for meth addiction; and make treatment more accessible, especially for rural communities, with a mobile medication-assisted treatment facility.

The committee also took up several initiatives that will help the agriculture community in Wisconsin. The programs will put more resources on the ground, including Agriculture Agents of the UW Extension and grants for increasing agriculture exports from the state.

The action by the committee also federalizes the tax code as it relates to capital loss tax deductions and the taxation of Restaurant Revitalization grants, reducing taxes on Main Street businesses and those that experience a loss on certain assets.

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