

Contact: Rep. Jon Plumer

(608) 237-9142

For Immediate Release September 14, 2023

Rep. Plumer Passes Childcare Reforms to Expand Access and Reduce Costs for Families

MADISON, WI – Today on the floor, Rep. Plumer voted for significant childcare reforms that expand access and help reduce costs:

"Governor Evers insisted on using one-time federal funds meant to help with the pandemic to create a new on-going childcare program. His unilateral decision was unsustainable and did nothing to address the root causes driving up costs and reducing capacity in childcare.

"We created and passed a package of childcare legislation today in the Assembly that specifically targets capacity issues and rising costs for families. Our commonsense reforms increase childcare capacity ratios and put Wisconsin in-line with our neighboring states. Our Childcare Reimbursement Account program lets families pay for childcare pre-tax, thereby reducing their overall costs. A new revolving loan fund gives childcare facilities the ability to expand capacity, increasing the number of spots available to families in their community.

"Each budget, we provide nearly \$1 billion to fund childcare costs and operations for Wisconsin families. In the budget I voted for earlier this year, we increased eligibility for those programs so that more families have access to them and provided an additional \$90 million in funding.

"Our actions in the Assembly today builds on our work in the budget. I implore my Senate colleagues and the Governor to support them so that we can provide real and sustainable solutions for Wisconsin families and childcare providers."

###