



# GARY ALAN HEBL

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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

### Wisconsin Democrats Introduce Bills to Remove Barriers to Unemployment Insurance

**(Sun Prairie)** – Today, Wisconsin Democrats introduced a slew of bills to expedite the Unemployment Insurance process for Wisconsinites. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has witnessed an unprecedented number of unemployment claims since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2010, the Republicans legislative majority have enacted unnecessary barriers related to UI that have slowed down the process during the current crisis. Rep. Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) released the following statement:

“This package will remove eligibility restrictions for UI, make it easier to apply for benefits, and remove barriers that will allow DWD to process claims more quickly,” Hebl said. “The goal is simple: we want to make sure that people can access these critically important resources as quickly as possible. Getting unemployment insurance to families more efficiently will alleviate some of the pressure created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Time is critically important; it could be the difference between making rent payments and eviction.”

Legislation being proposed by Democrats today includes:

- **LRB 6244:** Allowing social security disability (SSDI) recipients to receive concurrent unemployment insurance benefits;
- **LRB 6246:** Reinstating the ability of those participating in extended occupational training to receive extended UI benefits;
- **LRB 6249:** Suspending the \$500 wage threshold for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits temporarily;
- **LRB 6254:** Providing DWD the authority to determine by administrative rule what constitutes suitable work a claimant must accept if offered, and what labor market conditions to review based on the number of weeks that the claimant has received benefits;
- **LRB 6256:** Expanding DWD authority to promulgate rules that provider waivers for certain requirements;
- **LRB 6257:** Eliminating the requirement that claimants wait one week before receiving benefits;
- **LRB 6265:** Reduces administrative requirements; and
- **LRB 6362:** Eliminating the concept of substantial fault from being a disqualifying factor.

“We have to do more for Wisconsinites struggling to make ends meet,” Hebl said. “It’s time for the Republican majority to stop twiddling their thumbs and take action. As they like to say, the legislature is a co-equal branch of government. Governor Evers cannot tackle these issues by himself. They cannot continue to abdicate their responsibilities. We must do what is right for the citizens we represent.”

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State Capitol, P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708 ♦ (608) 266-7678  
Fax: (608) 282-3646 ♦ Email: rep.hebl@legis.wisconsin.gov