



SCOTT KRUG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 72nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0215
FAX: (608) 282-3672
District: (715) 459-2267
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0072

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
Rep.Krug@legis.wi.gov

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Contact: Representative Scott Krug
(608) 266-0215

Representative Krug Directs Governor to Update UI Computer Systems

Madison, WI – Representative Scott Krug (R-Rome) voted to direct Governor Evers to correct the issues with the Unemployment Insurance (UI) computer system at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The legislation was amended to include provisions to protect businesses, schools and local governments from frivolous lawsuits and provide more relief to those who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

“Governor Evers has failed to lead when Wisconsinites need it most,” said Representative Krug. “This legislation provides a roadmap for improving an outdated computer system, a process which the governor could have begun on his own.”

The legislation requires DWD to issue a request for proposals (RFP) within 30 days after the effective date of the bill. The computer upgrade project must begin by June 30, 2021. The bill requires federal funds to be used first before spending state dollars. Governor Evers already has the ability to finance the development of a new computer system through the state master lease program.

This legislation also includes a number of common sense initiatives from the Coronavirus Relief Bill that the Governor vetoed earlier this year, including:

- Exempts UI one-week waiting period through March 14
- Includes civil liability exemption language
- Provides benefit charging, work-share and extended benefits provisions

“The governor likes to use the outdated computer system as an excuse for the unacceptable backlog of UI claims,” said Representative Krug. “However, nonpartisan audits of the governor appointed agency indicate that mismanagement is fundamentally to blame.”

“Instead of doing his job, Governor Evers has been playing politics with people’s lives,” said Representative Krug. “The governor has been in office for more than two years and his administration has yet to make a meaningful effort to improve the system and assist our communities, even with all the available tools at his disposal. Simply putting more people in the call centers to answer the phone when people call doesn’t require a system update, showing people in desperate need that you care doesn’t require a system update. I’m proud to send this bill to the Governor for his signature.”

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