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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DATE: January 11, 2024 CONTACT: Sen. Dianne Hesselbein, 608-266-6670 Rep. Alex Joers, 608-237-9179

Bipartisan Legislation Authored by Senator Hesselbein and Representative Joers to Increase College Accessibility is Unanimously Recommended for Passage

MADISON, Wis – Today the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommended Assembly Bill 793 (AB 793) for passage. AB 793 is bipartisan legislation authored by Representative Amy Binsfeld (R – Sheboygan), Representative Alex Joers (D-Middleton), Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R - Appleton), and Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton).

AB 793 would make three important changes: (1) increase the tax-free dollar amount a person can save for a child's future higher education on an annual basis– and allow the amount to adjust for inflation over time; (2) codify federal changes into state law that allow the programs to be used for other limited expenses, including apprenticeships; and (3) increase the benefit to businesses that choose to invest in our state's future learners and leaders.

Senator Hesselbein and Representative Joers released the following statement:

"As parents, we both recognize the financial challenges that families and individuals face when pursuing their career paths after high school. We are proud to put forward legislation that eases that cost burden and encourages our young people to chase their dreams.

"This bipartisan legislation makes simple, necessary changes to increase the accessibility and affordability of college and apprenticeship programs. Enhancing opportunities and alleviating costs associated with advanced learning opportunities are common-sense solutions to support working families and bolster Wisconsin's workforce."

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