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Rep. Considine on April 25 Assembly Floor Session

Madison – Today, the Assembly voted on legislation. Many of the bills that came before the Assembly would make it harder for those in need to receive assistance from the state and from local governments. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) issued the following statement on the passage of these bills:

“Today’s discussion was disheartening. The majority of the bills that came before me today would send our state backwards. I believe these bill would harm our workforce, not bolster it.

“Wisconsin workers deserve to receive their benefits in a timely manner. However, the bills debated today would likely cause delays. Assembly Bill (AB) 147 would make it harder to receive unemployment insurance (UI) and workers’ compensation, while putting a greater burden on the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), with no additional funding to the agency. This would undoubtedly weigh down an already complicated and lengthy process. We cannot make Wisconsin’s injured and laid off workers wait longer for the compensation they deserve.

“Other bills before us today such as AB 153 and AB 152 would further complicate the UI system. AB 153 would adjust the maximum number of unemployment benefits a person can receive on a monthly basis, depending on the unemployment rate. This change makes UI less reliable and does not acknowledge differing unemployment rates around the state. Additionally, AB 152 increases our already strict identity-proofing measures and requires more out of DWD staff without additional funding. The impacts of this bill could make the UI process even more cumbersome for Wisconsin workers. I believe that is unacceptable.

“Instead, we need to support our workers and grow our workforce. Governor Evers’ budget provides real investments in programs that work. These investments include \$200 million in Wisconsin Innovation Grants, \$4.4 million for enhanced youth service programs, \$16.5 million



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in job training initiatives, \$20 million to address the teacher shortage, and more. Our workforce also requires access to affordable childcare, healthcare, and education. Let's shift our focus and make investments where they are most needed. Investments in these areas will move our state forward and help our economy in the long run."

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