



STATE CAPITOL PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
PHONE (608) 266-7746 **TOLL-FREE** (888) 534-0081
EMAIL Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov
WEB <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/81/considine>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 23, 2021

CONTACT: Rep. Considine

Rep.Considine@legis.wi.gov

(608) 266-7746

Assembly Makes Move to Help the Unemployed

Madison – Today the Wisconsin State Assembly convened for Governor Tony Evers’ call for a January Special Session on Unemployment Insurance. The Assembly heard and passed January 2021 Special Session Senate Bill 1. Rep. Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) issued the following statement after adjournment:

“The unemployment system has been continuously weakened over the past decade. The policies enacted over the years have made it more difficult for Wisconsinites to access benefits if they become unemployed. This became apparent to the general public when COVID-19 hit last spring.

“My colleagues and I have been fighting to remove obstacles for people experiencing hardship for years. Early last summer we introduced legislation to remove barriers to unemployment insurance. We wanted people to be able to access the benefits they deserved. Unfortunately, these proposals weren’t taken up by the Senate or Assembly. Last month Governor Evers called for a special session to modernize our UI system. Unfortunately my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refused to meet on this issue until today. However, I am glad to see movement on this issue. This is an important issue that directly impacts constituents in every Assembly district across the state.

“While our work to modernize the UI system is not done, this bill is a good first step. Special Session SB 1 eliminates the one week waiting period until March 13th and allows Governor Evers to come back to request funding for modernization. I wish that we had just allowed Governor Evers to have the funding needed since he has already requested it in this bill and the budget. However, I am glad to come together with my colleagues to start this long road of creating a better system for those in need.”

###