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For Immediate Release:
August 15th, 2023

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Workforce Development

Over the past year, we have seen our unemployment drop to historic lows, but businesses all over the state are consistently short staffed. This is due to a large percentage of the able bodied workforce not being gainfully employed. Despite Governor Evers' veto efforts, our legislature is trying to do all we can to make sure Wisconsinites are being trained and actively contributing to the economy.

With the passage of the budget, the Republican legislature has helped boost the programs that will be able to help both businesses and individuals alike. We have given an historic \$1.4 billion in each year of the budget to help both create new programs and continue to invest in already successful workforce development programs.

One example of these programs that we are proud of is the youth apprenticeship grant program. The youth apprenticeship program allows for students to get on-the-job work experience, with both combined classroom and hands-on experience, and is just one of the programs that will be able to benefit from this funding. The budget had also included a \$1.5 million increase in grants for school districts to provide educational programming in industries where there is a large shortage of entry-level workers.

Through the budget the legislature has also increased funding for both bringing new people into the trades, as well as allowing for the existing workforce to go back and learn valuable skills that will help them advance in their trades. We have provided \$250,000 annually for CDL training programs to incentivize people to get into the trucking industry. In addition we have increased funding for technical schools by almost \$10 million. This money can be used by these schools to be used to adapt to the needs of both the student population and the business community.

We have also been able to give technical schools the ability to provide materials to the students for their use free of charge. Finally, we have made a \$2 million investment to help those who are already in the trades. This \$2 million dollars will go towards opening access to training programs that will help them get more training and advance in their careers.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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