

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 17, 2022 Contact: Rep. Jill Billings 608-266-5780

Rep. Billings Statement on Assembly Session *Fails to Address Workforce Shortage*

MADISON – Today, the State Assembly took up numerous bills as the end of the Legislative Session approaches. Included on the calendar were numerous bills impacting public benefits

"During COVID-19, I heard from many constituents suffering from unemployment and afraid for how they would keep a roof over their heads, the lights on, and food in the refrigerator for their families. The economy has rebounded, it is the perfect opportunity to invest in our workforce in job skills training, access to transportation, access to childcare, and training for the next generation of green jobs. Democratic initiatives are what people are asking for and that would help them get good, family supporting jobs.

Leaving people out in the cold doesn't help them when economic times are good, and is even more harmful when times are bad. They need a warm hand up towards a good job.

We have the opportunity, with a \$3.8 billion projected budget surplus, to invest in our workforce infrastructure. Governor Evers proposed a plan which puts money back in taxpayers' pockets and which helps ease the financial burden on caregivers and parents with children in childcare. I remain hopeful that the Assembly will take this bill next month to help people across the state as they face increasing costs for living."

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