



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Governor Scott Walker  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin Legislature

Governor Walker,

Please veto the following provisions on Unemployment Insurance (UI) out of this budget. They were inserted there without your review, and with no public scrutiny. They should be removed and the decisions of the employer and employee representatives on the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council (UIAC) should be deferred to on these issues. They are the experts, not legislators.

(These items refer to the *Fiscal Bureau's Comparative Summary of Budget Recommendations (Governor and Joint Committee on Finance, section on Department of Workforce Development)*)

Item # 1, p. 730: **SHARING OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**  
[LFB Paper 559]

Item # 2, p. 730: **SUITABLE WORK**  
[LFB Paper 738]

Item # 5, p. 734: **CONTRIBUTION FINANCING TAX RATES**

Item # 6, p. 736: **VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF WORK**

Item # 7, p. 738: **MISCONDUCT AND SUBSTANTIAL FAULT**

Item # 8, p. 741: **WORK SEARCH -- TEMPORARY HELP COMPANIES**

Item # 9, p. 742: **REDUCED PARTIAL BENEFITS DURING HOLIDAYS**

Items # 6 and 7 alone will deprive job seekers of critical temporary income, to the tune of \$40,000,000 over the next two years kept out of employees' checking accounts statewide.

Denial of UI benefits under these harsh measures will also penalize Wisconsin businesses. Denied benefits will keep laid-off workers from buying millions of dollars of food and supplies in Wisconsin grocery stores whose profit margin is still a razor-thin 2-3%. And of course

they won't eat out, contributing to the continued recessionary struggles of many Wisconsin restaurants to stay afloat.

Job seekers denied UI benefits won't be able to make their car payments to their local banks and credit unions, much less patronize car dealerships in their town. They won't be able to pay their bills to their local Wisconsin utility companies. And these provisions will prevent laid-off employees from making millions of dollars' worth of mortgage and rent payments to Wisconsin banks and credit unions, just when the foreclosure rates were starting to go down. Homelessness will increase in our local communities.

UI benefits don't just keep job-seekers and their families going, they help keep our local and state businesses and economies going!

Governor Walker, if you let these budget provisions stand, you will take a minimum of \$40 million out of the Wisconsin economy and you will just shift many job seekers onto other public benefits – Medicaid, FoodShare, subsidized housing and utilities. Transfers to those public benefits will cost the State of Wisconsin millions of dollars.

In regard to Item #5: do we really want to hike UI taxes on the seasonal employers in Wisconsin, which includes all tourism businesses, many of which are small businesses? This is one of the least thought-through measures in this entire budget! The whole UI tax schedule should be examined by the UIAC members in great depth, and their recommendations adopted for all Wisconsin businesses, not just certain ones.

Governor Walker, we appreciate your serious consideration of the economic consequences for individuals and communities of denying well over \$40 million in UI benefits in the next two years.

Thank you.



Rep. Christine Sinicki  
20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assembly Labor Committee



Rep. Chris Taylor  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assembly Labor Committee



Tod Ohnstad  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assembly Labor Committee



Senator Bob Jauch  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Sen. Workforce Dev. Committee



Senator John Lehman  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District  
Sen. Workforce Dev. Committee



Senator Nikiya Harris  
6<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Senate Labor Committee



Rep. Peter Barca  
64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assembly Minority Leader



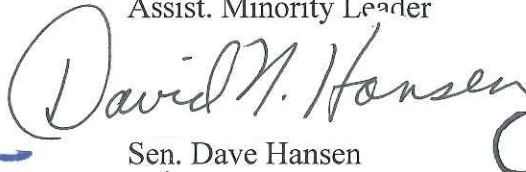
Rep. Sandy Pasch  
10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Assist. Minority Leader



Rep. Andy Jorgensen  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Assembly Dem. Caucus Chr.



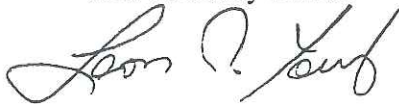
Sen. Chris Larson  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Sen. Minority Leader



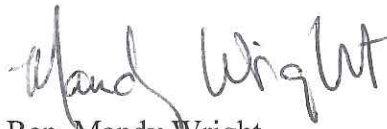
Sen. Dave Hansen  
30<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Assist. Sen. Min. Leader



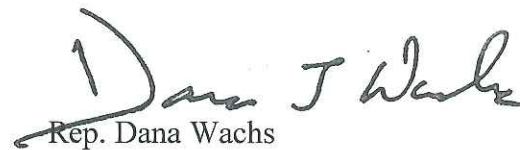
Rep. Josh Zepnick  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Leon Young  
16<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Mandy Wright  
85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Dana Wachs  
91<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Steven Smith  
75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Katrina Shankland  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Melissa Sargent  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Janis Ringhand  
45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



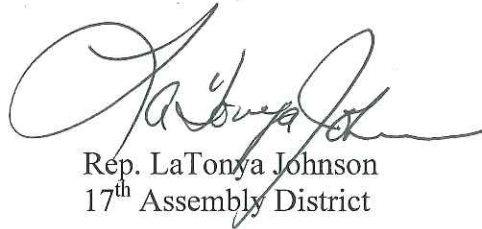
Rep. Daniel Riemer  
7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Cory Mason  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Robb Kahl  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



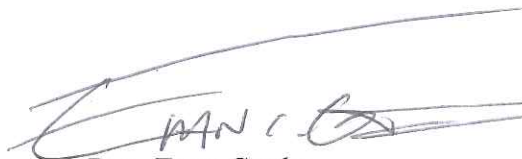
Rep. LaTonya Johnson  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Brett Hulsey  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Gary Hebl  
46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Evan Goyke  
18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Steve Doyle  
94<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Chris Danou  
92<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



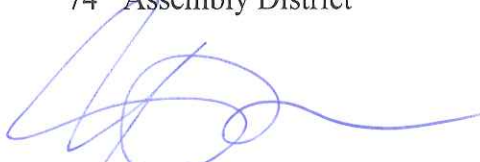
Rep. Janet Bewley  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber  
57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Terese Berceau  
77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Mandela Barnes  
11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Sen. Tim Cullen  
15<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Sen. Jon Erpenbach  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Sen. Mark Miller  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Sen. Lena Taylor  
4<sup>th</sup> Senate District