



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Agard Urges Passage of Governor Evers' Workforce Initiatives Package

MADISON – Today, the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technical Colleges is holding a public hearing on [September 2023 Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) – Governor Evers' workforce initiatives legislation. Senator Agard has signed on as a coauthor to this legislation and released the following statement:

“Governor Evers and Legislative Democrats continue to put working families and individuals first. The workforce initiatives package includes a number of policies that prioritize hardworking Wisconsinites and address our state's longstanding workforce challenges.

“Wisconsin child care providers are the workforce behind Wisconsin's workforce. Not only stabilizing, but ensuring the long-term existence of Wisconsin's child care industry is vital for a prosperous economy moving forward. We know that programs like Child Care Counts and paid family and medical leave (FMLA) support young families while also keeping them active in our state's workforce.

“Furthermore, the Governor's proposal provides needed investments to address our state's healthcare worker and teacher shortages, helping to attract and retain qualified professionals in Wisconsin so that every individual can access a high-quality education and affordable medical care.

“I will continue working for the everyday people of our great state. I resoundingly support the Governor's special session proposal and stand ready to enact this critical workforce initiatives legislation. If Republicans were serious about addressing our state's labor needs, they would pass this legislation in both the Senate and the Assembly and present it to Governor Evers to be signed into law.”

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Senator Melissa Agard was elected by her colleagues to serve as Senate Democratic Leader in November of 2022. Senator Agard represents the 16th Senate District, encompassing Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Monona, Fitchburg, McFarland, and parts of Madison