



DIANNE H. HESSELBEIN

STATE SENATOR • SENATE DISTRICT 27

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2023

Contact: Sen. Dianne Hesselbein (608) 266-6670

GOP CONTINUES CEASELESS ATTACK ON WISCONSINITES WHO WORK FOR A LIVING

They earned unemployment insurance - let them use it.

If you wonder if my Republican colleagues sincerely wish to streamline the bureaucracy for working Wisconsinites, look no further than the flurry of activity cropping up after the April election. The Republicans started the day after another bitter loss in the spring election. Republican members began circulating a blizzard of legislation to make unemployment benefits harder to get and collect by those eligible—those currently unemployed who earned the benefits while working.

Let's be clear. Unemployment insurance is earned. The weekly benefit rate is equal to 4% of wages paid in the calendar quarter in which the highest wages were paid to the claimant up to a maximum weekly benefit rate of \$370. The minimum weekly benefit rate is \$54. That's what the Republicans are upset about.

Unfortunately, the Republicans, are now throwing their energy into making it harder for working men and women. Republicans want to continue to give certain employers in Wisconsin massive state giveaways despite failing to create jobs or give quality raises. At the same time, Republicans want to make it more difficult for people to receive unemployment insurance.

In response to working men and women earning UI, the Legislature has at least 3 more bills seeking to reduce access to Unemployment Benefits. The bills would make the situation worse for seasonal workers and their employers by further reducing the weeks available, give the notoriously slow-acting Finance committee oversight of federal unemployment benefit changes, and require even more bureaucratic audits of UI recipients.

The State Assembly passed these bills before addressing any pressing need Wisconsinites who continue to work and earn paychecks, and I expect these will be on our agenda when the State Senate rolls back into action.

Whether it's making voting difficult for those holding down two or more jobs, denying vitally needed child care, continuing to trample on seasonal workers its clear the Republicans care more about their tax give always to big corporations than supporting Wisconsin workers.

###