



BRAD PFAFF
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2023

Contact: Sen. Pfaff

608.266.5490

Fighting for Wisconsin's Working Families

Wisconsin's working families face tough decisions every day.

Like you, I know the value of the dollar; but no matter how hard I try, the dollar does not seem to go as far today.

It is time for the legislature to stop playing petty partisan politics and recognize the economic needs of the working people of Wisconsin. Instead of seeking to impeach a duly elected State Supreme Court Justice and drawing legislative districts to protect the power of one political party, the legislature needs to focus on the economic well-being of our working families.

Wisconsin's working families deserve economic relief.

I am proud to have helped deliver relief for small businesses through the elimination of the personal property tax. Removing this more than 170-year-old tax lessened the burden on our main street businesses and has given them more room to grow.

With relief delivered to our small businesses, it is time to deliver relief to our families as well.

That is why I support returning our state's surplus in a way that is fiscally responsible for families working to balance their finances and make ends meet.

I am disappointed that the legislative majority recently rejected a proposal for a \$200 tax rebate for each taxpayer and each dependent, for up to 3 dependents. This would have delivered targeted relief to middle class Wisconsinites, for those who make up to \$100,000 as individuals and \$150,000 for married-joint filers.

Importantly, this plan would have empowered families and given them the relief they need to buy groceries, pay for gas, and afford child care.

As we work to return our surplus to working families, we must also address Wisconsin's child care crisis.

Our child care providers and working families have been begging the legislature to fund Child Care Counts. Since COVID, this program has utilized federal dollars to extend a lifeline to child care providers through support for wages and operation costs.

I listened to hours of testimony at a Senate committee hearing this month from child care providers and parents about the need to fund Child Care Counts. They made it clear that in order to grow our economy and expand our state's workforce, we need to invest in child care. I support the extension of Child Care Counts and have joined my colleagues in introducing legislation to further fund this program and give providers the lifeline they need.

Unfortunately, the legislative majority has chosen to not fund the Child Care Counts program further, forcing child care providers like Cradles to Crayons in Cashton to close their doors.

Without reliable and affordable child care, parents cannot work. Our workforce will shrink and it will impact every business across our state.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We can invest in child care and workforce training. Growing our workforce through apprenticeships and education is good for our economy. Connecting students and graduates to local employers will keep talented workers in Wisconsin and prepare them to be the business leaders of tomorrow.

We can invest in Wisconsin's infrastructure. Building roads, bridges, and expanding broadband not only benefits our economy, but our workforce as well. It provides good paying jobs that support families across our state.

Too often, the voices of Wisconsin's working families have not been heard. While the rich get richer, the rest of us have been left to adapt or fall behind.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can invest in Wisconsin's working families and our future.

I want you to know I hear you, and I will continue to fight to deliver economic relief and protect every day needs like child care.

###

Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.