

Rep. Haywood: GOP mounts misguided attacks on Wisconsinites facing employment challenges

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Madison, Wis. – Earlier today, the GOP-led Wisconsin State Assembly passed a series of bills that make it more difficult for Wisconsinites to access assistance programs while unemployed. The bills did not address real workforce challenges like a lack of affordable child care and transportation, nor did they create any conditions to ensure that more people find work. These bills were part of an ongoing attack that demonize and punish those who access state unemployment programs. Representative Kalan Haywood (D-Milwaukee), the Assistant Democratic Leader issued the following statement:

“It is unfortunate that my colleagues across the aisle chose to prioritize an attempt at scoring political points demonizing some of our most vulnerable citizens, rather than directly addressing our real workforce issues. Putting up barriers to assistance programs are not realistic solutions. We must adapt our policies to find a healthy balance between the needs of employees and employers in our ever-changing economy. We must also find ways to retain and attract more workers by making Wisconsin a great place to work, learn and live.

“Under the steady leadership of Governor Evers, Wisconsin’s unemployment rate is lower than the national average, and our workforce participation higher than the national average. We can keep this momentum going by making smart investments in our people. There are simple solutions that can go a long way to address some of our workforce issues. By prioritizing basic needs such as childcare, transportation and affordable housing, we can show the people of Wisconsin that we believe in their drive and resolve, and create a working environment that benefits us all.”