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Special and Extraordinary Session Today

Madison – On Friday afternoon leadership in the Wisconsin State Assembly indicated that the Assembly would be in extraordinary session today for a veto override. Hearing this, Governor Evers called for a special session on education funding. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) released the following the floor sessions:

“I am glad Governor Evers called for a special session today, because coming in for this veto override is a waste of time and taxpayer money. The veto override we took up today was on the supplemental federal unemployment benefits. My colleagues in the majority think that our labor shortage is due to unemployment benefits. That’s not true.

“Our workforce was tight before the pandemic and it still is as we come out of the pandemic. However, we’re actually in a better position today than we were pre-pandemic and pre-supplemental unemployment benefits. In fact our current unemployment rate is 3.9% which is lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 4.0% in December of 2019. The fact that so many of our great businesses and employers are looking for work is not evidence that workers are just sitting at home.

“Since our workforce has been tight for years, is actually improving, and no data proves that ending these supplemental benefits helps lower the unemployment rate, the Assembly upheld Governor Evers’ veto today. That is why I was glad Governor Evers also called the Assembly into special session for education funding. Coming in for the special session allowed us an opportunity to get to real work instead of finding scapegoats.

“Unfortunately my colleagues in the majority have yet to gavel in for the special session. I wish they would meet the moment and do what’s best for our kids. They have taken no action instead of utilizing the \$550 million that is leftover from the budget bill for education. While I don’t believe they will take action during this special session, I hope that they see the benefits of investing in our classrooms and children with these additional dollars.”

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