



JERRY L. O'CONNOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Rep. O'Connor Votes to Empower Workers Over Bureaucracy

Madison, WI—Representative Jerry O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) released the following statement after joining Legislative Republicans to advance a package of bills that advance workforce development reforms aimed at eliminating fraud, encouraging a return to work, stimulating economic growth, and ensuring tax dollars are used effectively on programs that deliver real results:

“Too often, the government becomes unaccountable, bloated, redundant, and slow to serve the hardworking people who fund them.

Today, I am proud to vote for a package of bills that promote personal responsibility, strengthen workforce readiness, and ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently. Together, these bills reflect a commitment to limited government, fiscal discipline, and policies that empower individuals over bureaucracy. These bills include:

AB 162: requires the state to collect and report standardized workforce metrics. Transparent, standardized metrics will allow policymakers and employers to make informed decisions. It's a commonsense measure that prioritizes data over bureaucracy.

AB 164: updates unemployment insurance laws and aligns our practices with federal guidelines for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) grants. These reforms promote accountability and ensure that recipients are actively looking for work.

AB 165: prohibits local governments from establishing guaranteed income programs using public funds. These programs encourage dependency on government rather than self-sufficiency.

AB 166: expands academic and career planning services for grades 6-12 students. It also requires the state to report postsecondary cost and outcome data to help inform student and family decision-making.

AB 167: ensures that the legislature's Joint Finance Committee must approve any federally authorized UI expansions. This bill restores the legislature's constitutional role in budgetary oversight by preventing executive overreach while protecting taxpayers from open-ended federal spending mandates.

AB 168: implements administrative reforms within the Unemployment Insurance system, including simplifying processes and improving service delivery. This legislation supports efficiency and helps ensure the UI system works better for employers and claimants.

AB 169: modifies unemployment insurance laws, focusing on benefit eligibility and employer compliance.

Legislative Republicans are committed to policies grounded in personal responsibility and to the interests of Wisconsin's taxpayers and workforce. We're helping Wisconsinites get back to work.”

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