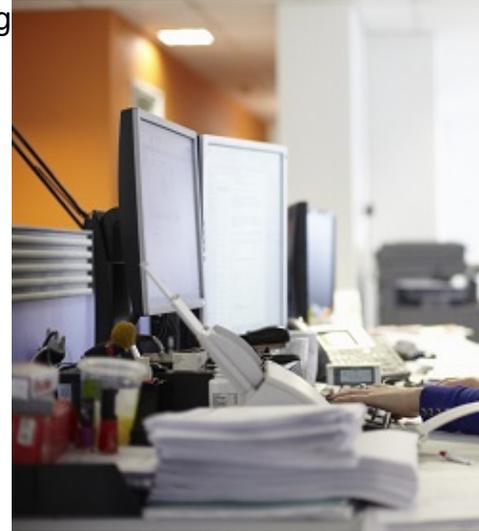


Zero Republican Legislators Respond to Legislative Survey

Written by GOV Press Wisconsin

Wednesday, 20 September 2023 12:49 - Last Updated Thursday, 21 September 2023 10:04

<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/working-woman-s450.jpg>



Governor hopes to prevent childcare crisis, address workforce challenges. Newly released report shows child care for two young children in Wisconsin costs more than tuition for two students at UW-Madison.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers last week launched a legislative survey of the full Wisconsin State Legislature, asking all 132 legislators to take public positions and answer questions on the merits of the governor's comprehensive plan to address the state's longstanding workforce challenges, including whether legislators support investments to increase access to affordable child care and prevent the child care industry's collapse, expand paid family leave, educate and train future workers, and support high-need workforce sectors statewide.



Legislators were asked to respond by 5 p.m. on September 14, ahead of the governor's special session to address these pressing issues that is scheduled for today, Wed., Sept. 20, at noon. The survey included questions such as:

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- Do you agree that one of the greatest issues facing Wisconsin is our state's ability to find, recruit, and retain workers to join our workforce?
- Do you agree that losing hundreds or even thousands of Wisconsin's child care providers and slots statewide will force workers to leave our state's workforce?
- Do you support creating a 12-week paid family leave policy in Wisconsin that allows smaller employers with fewer than 50 employees the ability to opt in?
- Do you agree that higher education, including the University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions, are critical to educating, training, retaining, and recruiting Wisconsin's workforce?

As of this morning, not one of the 86 Republican legislators who serve in the Wisconsin State Legislature responded to the survey, refusing to publicly state their positions on specific policy components of the governor's workforce plan, the workforce plan in its entirety, and what initiatives or plans, if any, they support to meaningfully and comprehensively address the state's workforce challenges.



As part of the survey, Gov. Evers also asked any legislators to provide feedback and suggest changes or amendments to his workforce plan in an effort to garner bipartisan support for the proposal. Not one Republican legislator responded to the survey with any suggested modifications to the governor's plan. Both Democratic caucuses in the Wisconsin State Assembly and Wisconsin State Senate responded to the survey in support of Gov. Evers' comprehensive workforce plan.

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