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Chairman Petryk, thank you for holding a hearing today on AB124, a bill I like to call the Second Start bill. As a former employment and training specialist I know we can do a better job of connecting job seekers and employers.

We continue to struggle with the challenges of the so called brain drain facing the state of WI we need creative solutions, that bring together existing resources, to accomplish the goal of keeping millennials seeking good employment opportunities right here at home. AB124 is just one of those kind of ideas.

Last session I was a member of the Jobs and Economy committee. We held a roundtable event at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. Our panel heard from many area employers and one in particular stood out to me. We heard from an area roofer, whose company employs a solid crew year round, but he wasn't shy in talking about the need for more qualified applicants to get a chance to talk to about working for him.

He understood the pressures that many high school graduates faced in seeking their path in life but also mentioned that he thinks some are much better suited for some real life work experience or apprenticeships instead of a four year university track. His business and many others across the state of WI are having a hard time reaching students to make them aware of the opportunities that exist outside of the typical four year track.

His story struck me, he knows that there is a vast network of reliable, dependable young adults with enough skills to get started in the trades that just don't realize how good the opportunities can be. With the high demand for skilled workers, starting pay and benefits are much better than some would think.

AB124 creates a mechanism within the Dept of Workforce Development that will connect regional/local employers, technical colleges and related apprenticeship programs to students who start an education at a 4yr campus but who do not continue in that track.

DWD will gather information about those students and gather information from the relating employers/apprenticeship programs and make a connection. DWD will create a packet of information describing the opportunities and mail it to those students from the UW System within two months after the beginning of each semester or session of the UW system.

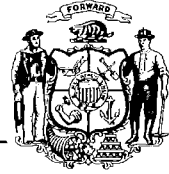
If any materials included in the information packet are prepared by a private organization the Department may charge that organization for the associated costs. The reason we utilize DWD as a go between source is in essence to protect the privacy of students from having their names added to private company mailing lists that in turn could be sold.

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this bill, Mr. Chair. I believe that this bill can be a step positive step forward in combatting the "brain drain" here in Wisconsin.

With me today is Senator Lemahieu, I will turn it over to him, and after I will be happy to take any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a large loop at the end.



# DEVIN LEMAHIEU

## STATE SENATOR

DATE: January 10, 2018  
RE: Testimony on Assembly Bill 124 (Second Start)  
TO: Chairman Petryk & Members, Assembly Committee on Workforce Development  
FROM: Senator Devin LeMahieu

Thank you for hearing my testimony today on Assembly Bill 124, also known as the Second Start Act. This legislation will allow the Department of Workforce Development to share apprenticeship and skilled trades opportunities with former students of the University of Wisconsin System.

A traditional four-year college is not for everyone. There are many fields that require good, skilled workers but do not necessarily require an undergraduate degree. Wisconsin's unemployment rate is near historic lows (currently 3.2%), and we need to be creative in how we connect job seekers to available opportunities.

This bill directs the UW System to furnish a list of former students that did not attain a degree to the Department of Workforce Development. Apprenticeship programs will solicit DWD to be included in a packet that will be mailed to the individuals. DWD will then compile and mail the packet. To defray costs, the legislation allows DWD to bill the apprenticeship organizations a proportionate cost of the mailing.

Prior to introduction of this proposal, Representative Krug and I consulted extensively with the UW System, which is not opposed to the bill. In addition, steps were taken to ensure that student privacy is protected.

Unfortunately, I cannot take credit for this idea. This legislation is based on a bill authored last session by Representative Scott Krug and the late Senator Rick Gudex. However, Representative Krug and I added a four-year sunset to the bill. This will let the Legislature reevaluate the program after four years and allow it to expire if it is not proven effective. We also added nursing as an eligible occupation to help recruit former students to another high-demand field.

The bill is supported by the Associated Builders & Contractors, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, and the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

## Assembly Committee on Workforce Development

### Testimony on Assembly Bill 124

#### Andrew Evenson, Legislative Liaison, Department of Workforce Development

Chairperson Petryk and members of the Assembly Committee:

I am Andrew Evenson, the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). On behalf of DWD, I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify for information only.

Governor Walker says workforce development is economic development. As we help employers find skilled workers to fill their labor market needs, we also give them the confidence to take on additional work and expand operations in Wisconsin. This leads to job creation and, ultimately, even more opportunity for Wisconsin's workers.

To this end, we appreciate this Committee's interest in further strengthening our workforce development, and are currently working to make sure that no talent is left on the sidelines, which includes former students, as well as veterans, people with disabilities, and the reentry population.

The legislation before you today, Assembly Bill 124 requires DWD to prepare and distribute a packet of information on employment and training opportunities for former students at the University of Wisconsin System including two-year college campuses. This information may include educational opportunities provided by a technical college, a private organization that provides apprenticeship training, a private organization collaborating with a technical college, or an educational institution offering a nursing program.

The total estimated annual cost is \$30,800 (GPR) which includes staff time to develop materials, the printing of the brochures, and postage. An estimated 13,000 packets will be mailed each year to addresses provided by the UW System. DWD would also add a webpage for student services to the Job Center of Wisconsin website which will be referenced in the brochure which would be a one-time cost of \$6,400. DWD may charge private organizations printing costs and a portion of the mailing costs. The bill contains a sunset provision after five years.

I would be happy to answer any technical questions you may have. Thank you again for your time and for the opportunity to testify today.