

State of Wisconsin



2023 Assembly Joint Resolution 73

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: recognizing Employment Choice First as a means to preserve the dignity, self-esteem, and pride of individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin.

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Wisconsin deserve the dignity and freedom to find work in the place of employment that best reflects their needs and skills; and

Whereas, an individual's employment and work also promote involvement and fellowship in other community activities; and

Whereas, Employment Choice First is a movement affirming the philosophy that choice of employment setting is a right of all individuals and that this choice should be made by the individual; and

Whereas, the mission of Employment Choice First in Wisconsin is to establish opportunities for all working-age individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin to gain employment within a setting that meets their individual needs and skills, and to engage businesses and organizations that value the contributions of employees with disabilities; and

Whereas, Wisconsin state agencies that provide services and support to persons with disabilities, as well as agencies that provide employment and related services, should implement Employment Choice First by collaborating to ensure that state programs, policies, procedures, and funding support a full array of employment services; and

Whereas, implementation of Employment Choice First ensures that individual preference, interest, and need are the guiding principles of determining appropriate employment settings; and

Whereas, sharing data and information across systems can assist state agencies in tracking progress toward full implementation of Employment Choice First; and

Whereas, state agencies can adopt measurable goals and objectives to promote assessment of progress toward full implementation of Employment Choice First; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the State of Wisconsin recognizes that an individual's choice of employment and work setting result in tangible and intangible benefits, including the enhancement of independence and economic self-sufficiency, as well as purpose, dignity, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment and pride; and, be it further

Resolved, That the State of Wisconsin recognizes that a diverse workforce enriches local communities, promotes a well-rounded working environment, and enhances economic development; and, be it further

Resolved, That the State of Wisconsin recognizes that all individuals, including those with disabilities, should have choices with respect to where they seek employment and professional development; and, be it further

Resolved, That the State of Wisconsin will promote the dignity, self-esteem, and economic self-sufficiency of working-age individuals with disabilities by providing access to paid employment aligned with each individual's interests, desires, and needs.

Senator Chris Kapenga
President of the Senate

Representative Robin J. Vos
Speaker of the Assembly

Date

Edward A. Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk