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TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I have approved Assembly Bill 450 as 2011 Wisconsin Act 123 and have deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. I have exercised the partial veto in Section 7, as it relates to s. 108.04(16m)(h), and in Section 11, as it relates to the effective date of the bill.

Assembly Bill 450 establishes a pilot program to permit unemployment insurance beneficiaries to participate in specialized occupational training and receive a stipend to help offset the costs of participating in the training. This program will not only assist unemployment insurance beneficiaries in finding employment sooner, but businesses with skilled worker vacancies can train individuals to meet specific needs.

I have exercised the partial veto in Section 7, as it relates to s. 108.04(16m)(h), because it conflicts directly with other provisions of the bill. In Section 3, the bill provides that a program trainee is an employee of the employer for worker's compensation purposes. This language was included in an amendment to the original bill. However, the amendment inadvertently failed to remove the conflicting language of Section 7, which specifies that a program trainee is an employee of the state for worker's compensation purposes. My partial veto of Section 7, as it relates to s. 108.04(16m)(h) ensures that trainees will be considered employees of the participating employer for purposes of worker's compensation, in accordance with the intent of the amendment.

I have exercised the partial veto in Section 11, as it relates to the effective date of the bill, because delaying the effective date for 180 days would prevent the Department of Workforce Development from collecting meaningful data about the effectiveness of the program. Under the bill, the program sunsets on July 1, 2013. If the bill did not become effective until 180 days after publication, which would be approximately mid-September, the pilot program would last less than a year. This is an insufficient amount of time to evaluate the pilot program's parameters and results. Further, a longer pilot program will match more trainees with more potential employers. My partial veto helps people get back to work and employers to hire workers with needed skills.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT WALKER
Governor