Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 1068

Assembly Committee on State Affairs

Wednesday, January 7, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Swearingen, and esteemed members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs for scheduling this public hearing and providing me with the opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 1068. I also want to express my appreciation to my colleague, Senator Rachael, for leading this bill in the Senate.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) isn't just a buzzword; it's Wisconsin's ticket to a groundbreaking transformation in public sector operations. Envision a Wisconsin where efficiency soars, processes seamlessly align, and state governance operates in perfect synergy – all thanks to AI, the ultimate force multiplier.

Commencing in 2030, state agencies will propose a reduction in the total number of position authorizations based on the agency's 2023-24 fiscal year figures. This bill aims to optimize the workforce and catapult productivity. This proposal empowering our state employees with the tools necessary to best serve Wisconsin. From 2026 onwards, agencies will submit reports identifying positions that could benefit from AI tools, ensuring a more efficient allocation of resources.

The Legislative Audit Bureau will conduct thorough audits on how the agencies utilize AI, offering comprehensive insights into implementation, guidelines, privacy safeguards, and effectiveness, in order to promote transparency and accountability in our state government. Embracing AI isn't merely an option; it's a necessity for modernizing our state's operations and securing our position at the forefront of innovation.

AB 1068 strategically focuses on leveraging AI to enhance the efficiency of state agencies, enabling us to achieve more with available resources. The provisions outlined in this bill align with global best practices, ensuring Wisconsin's competitiveness and adaptability in the ever-evolving landscape of technology and governance.

Let me emphasize, this bill is NOT an excuse to fire state employees. We are in the middle of a workforce shortage. Anything we can do to ensure the job gets done and prevent burnout from our talented workers should be done. This bill will embolden our departments to support their staff while assisting the citizens of the State of Wisconsin. Republicans and Democrats oftentimes like to blame the departments for causing problems. Let's solve this problem! We can give them tools they need to be successful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

RACHAEL A. CABRAL-GUEVARA

STATE SENATOR • 19ᵀᴴ SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony before the Assembly Committee on State Affairs

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara

February 7, 2024

Thank you committee members for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 1068, an important bill aimed at improving government efficiency through the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

AI is dominating headlines globally and has become a topic of political debate to ensure the correct regulatory framework is built around it. Despite all of this attention, there has not been much concrete action on utilizing this tool in government.

This bill would enable agencies to make informed decisions about utilizing AI to improve their everyday work. More specifically, each agency would review their position authority and analyze whether their work can be made more efficient through the use of AI. This will not only keep Wisconsin at the cutting edge of innovation—it will also keep us ahead of the curve on using technology to improve government functions. The Legislative Audit Bureau would also conduct reviews of agencies that implement these changes, ensuring a responsible and well-reasoned rollout of AI tools.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify and I am hopeful you will support this important piece of legislation.