

## GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 8, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 932** in its entirety.

This bill would mandate the Governor to provide at least \$20 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the Department of Workforce Development for the purpose of promoting apprenticeship programs to school districts with low or no apprenticeship program participation, increasing approved apprenticeship programs, and funding apprenticeship completion awards.

I welcome the opportunity to invest in, promote, and expand youth apprenticeship programs in our state. The 2019-21 biennial budget I signed included \$10 million to invest in local youth apprenticeship grants over the biennium. With changes made through the 2021-23 biennial budget I signed in July 2021 we added an additional \$1 million annually to invest \$12 million into youth apprenticeship grants across our state over this biennium.

Moreover, while our unemployment rate has rebounded to even better than pre-pandemic levels and continues to be at historic lows, our state has long faced workforce challenges that preceded the coronavirus pandemic. Wisconsin has always been proud of our high workforce participation rates—Wisconsinites are hard workers by nature. We have had the fewest number of people unemployed ever in our state's history as people across our state have returned to work. At the same time, we also know we need to find meaningful, long-term solutions to train our talented workers and bring more workers to our state.

My administration and I have, thankfully, not waited for Legislative direction to begin this important work. In fact, I was proud to announce an investment of more than six times what the Legislature is proposing here. In July 2021, I announced I would be investing \$130 million into solutions to help address our state's long-term workforce challenges. This investment included \$100 million to develop innovative, community-based solutions to supporting our workforce, apprenticeship, and work training, \$20 million toward subsidizing employment and skills training to individuals who are unemployed, and \$10 million to help connect workers with available jobs. Today, much of this investment has already been awarded to important projects and efforts in every corner of our state.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature's effort to limit the state's ability to use federal funds. In Wisconsin, it is the role of the Governor to oversee the use of federal funds under Section 16.54 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, which is clearly established, has been in place for decades, and was reaffirmed by legislative leadership in a letter sent to me in April 2020. Moreover, as outlined above, Wisconsin has long been leading on this issue by making these critical, significant investments without the Legislature's direction.

Respectfully submitted,  
*TONY EVERS*  
Governor