

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

**FROM: Sen. André Jacque
Rep. Barbara Dittrich**

DATE: February 4, 2019

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-1584/1, Comprehensive Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities Act

DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 19 at 5:00pm

Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship program has proven to be both popular and extremely beneficial for students and employers. We are proposing legislation to expand Youth Apprenticeship even further to provide students with training opportunities and assist employers in filling workforce gaps in even more high-demand fields.

For example, according to the Burning Glass 2017 - 2020 reports of largest and fastest growing industries in Brown County, Local Government and Elementary and Secondary Schools are in the top 3 of the largest industries while Corporate, Subsidiary and Regional Managing Offices is the fastest growing industry in Brown County. Unfortunately, there are no Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Youth Apprenticeship programs for any of these career areas, so local chambers of commerce cannot engage students interested in those fields.

Under current law, the Department of Workforce Development needs to approve and maintain a list of occupational areas, often known as "career clusters," however is not required to include any specific career cluster. Of the 16 generally accepted career clusters, DWD presently sanctions youth apprenticeship programs in 11 of them, leaving out the following areas:

- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Government & Public Administration
- Human Services
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

LRB-1584/1 will require DWD to approve and maintain programs in all 16 specific occupational areas for the youth apprenticeship program. The Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this legislation.

To be added on as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please reply to this email or contact Nik in Sen. Jacque's office at 6-3512 or Keith in Rep. Dittrich's office at 6-8551 by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 14th.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Workforce Development to include 16 specific occupational areas, commonly referred to as "career clusters," for the youth apprenticeship program. Under

current law, DWD is required to approve and maintain a list of approved career clusters, but is not required to include any specific career cluster.