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Secretary Newson: Rep. Barca Wrong in Job Loss Claim

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today issued the following statement in response to Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca's inaccurate statements earlier in the day about Wisconsin job loss:

"Representative Barca has made it clear through his inaccurate statements that he needs to learn more about the methodology before he criticizes us for questioning it.

"The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics dramatically overestimated Wisconsin's job loss for the month of October, and revised figures show Wisconsin did not lead the nation in job loss during that month. Representative Barca is not only wrong, but his false statements only reaffirm the need for a job reporting system that more accurately reflects the status of Wisconsin's workforce.

"The truth is that Wisconsin's unemployment rate has dropped this year, the number of unemployment claims has dropped this year, and state sales and withholding tax collections have grown this year.

"It's time to stop putting forth false information that misleads and creates unnecessary alarm among job creators and job seekers, and start showing some leadership in getting Wisconsin working again."

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