



REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2010

CONTACT: REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON
608-266-2401

MAJORITY LEADER NELSON: ASSEMBLY TO VOTE ON LEGISLATION TO CREATE JOBS, REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS

ASSEMBLY WILL ALSO TAKE UP LEGISLATION TO HELP WISCONSINITES, VETERANS SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

MADISON – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) announced today that he has scheduled Assembly votes for Thursday on legislation to create jobs and lower health care costs. The Assembly will also vote on a bill that would provide Wisconsinites, particularly veterans, greater flexibility with retirement accounts.

“Assembly Democrats will be taking yet another step forward in strengthening the economy by passing the New Markets Jobs Act,” said Representative Nelson. “This bill will spur job growth by directing business investment to hard hit rural and urban areas.”

On Thursday, the Assembly will also vote on legislation to lower healthcare costs for Wisconsin families. AB 482 would exempt prescription drugs from Wisconsin’s “minimum markup” law. Under current law, retailers are prohibited from selling products below the cost they paid for them. The law provides exceptions to allow retailers to match the price of a competitor or offer seasonal clearance sales. AB 482 would add an exception for prescription drugs, reducing prices for Wisconsin families.

AB 614 would increase healthcare transparency by allowing consumers to request a healthcare provider’s median charge for specific procedures. Consumers could also request a good faith estimate of their total out-of-pocket cost for a specified service.

“While Congress continues to debate comprehensive healthcare reform, Assembly Democrats are taking action by passing commonsense reforms,” said Representative Nelson. “These bills will help families save money by increasing healthcare transparency and reducing prescription drug prices.”

Representative Nelson has also scheduled a vote on legislation to eliminate penalties for individuals transferring money from a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. AB 648 / SB 439 would allow taxpayers who have incomes over \$100,000 to convert traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs and pay taxes over two years, instead of one. The bill would also provide veterans with greater flexibility with retirement accounts. Among other things, the bill would allow members of the Armed Services to make withdrawals from IRAs penalty-free if they are called to active duty.

###