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STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Workforce Development
Scott Walker, Governor
Reginald J. Newson, Secretary

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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

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Secretary Newson: Rep. Barca Distorts Jobs Picture

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement in response to Representative Peter Barca's news release today on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data:

Representative Barca needs to get beyond his shortsighted view and look at the big picture, starting with the loss of nearly 150,000 jobs during the three years before Governor Walker took office. In 2011, Governor Walker and his partners in the Legislature took action to stabilize our state's economy and set the stage for job growth.

*Wisconsin's unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest point since 2008, and some 11,700 **more** Wisconsinites were employed year-over-year as of January 2012, according to the latest BLS data. The drop in our state's unemployment rate, the drop in new Unemployment Insurance claims, and the increase in state sales and withholding tax collections last year are all indicators of economic growth that bode well for our state.*

I agree with Representative Barca that we need to focus in a bipartisan manner on measures that will get more Wisconsinites working. The Wisconsin Wins bill that Governor Walker signed this week represents what we can accomplish when we set aside partisanship. I urge Representative Barca to work together with us to make good on this goal.

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