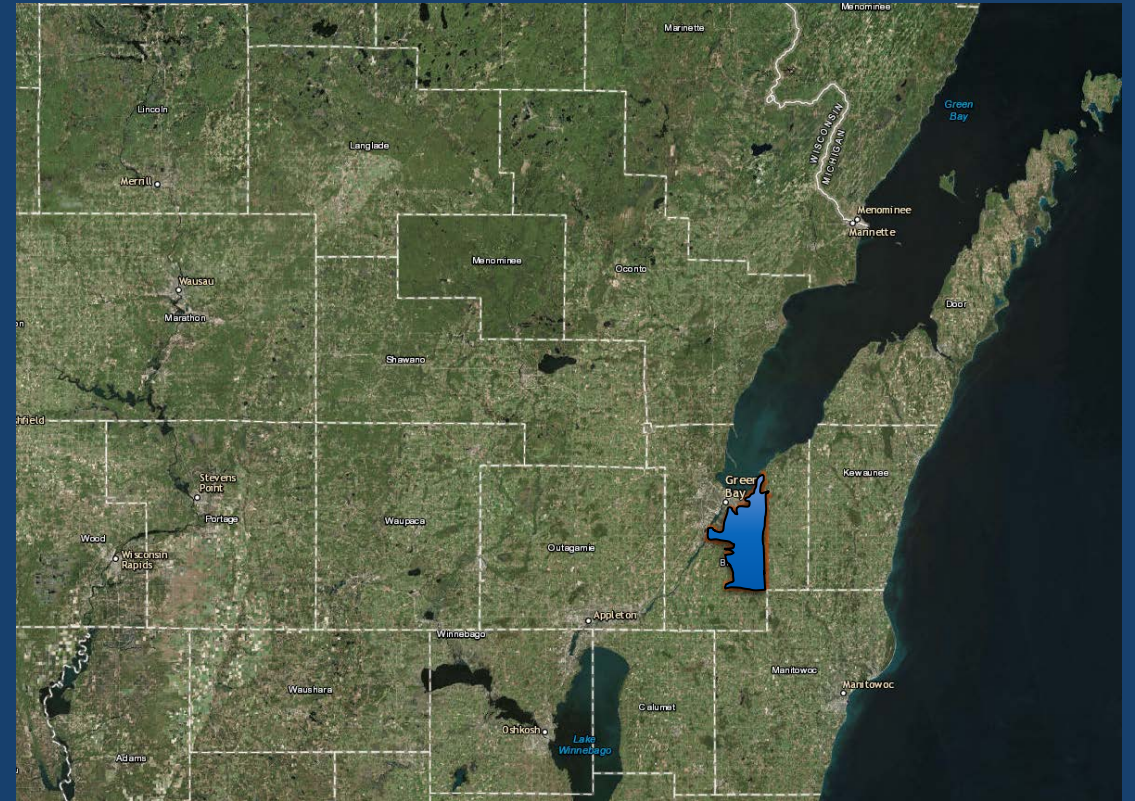


ABLE AND BEYOND IN WISCONSIN

Representative John Macco

INTRODUCTION

- John Macco
- 88th Assembly District
- Vice Chair of Ways and Means Committee and Audit Committee.
- Licensed Financial Advisor
- “I must do something *always* accomplishes
More than *something must be done*”



THREE INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Inclusion
- High Expectations
- Paid Work Experience

MOST IMPORTANT OF THREE: HIGH EXPECTATIONS

- Allow People with Disabilities to reach their goals
- Current System creates dependency
- Nowhere is this more prevalent than in employment policy

THE GREAT EMPLOYMENT CLIFF

- Allowed \$2000 of Countable Assets for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid
- Monthly Substantial Gainful Activity Limits (SGA) are \$980
- Creates an “Employment Cliff”
- EXACT OPPOSITE of how you create long term financial stability
- So what do we do.....



ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE (ABLE) ACCOUNTS

- Based off 529 structure
- Money DOES NOT count against SSI and Medicaid limits
- Can be used for:
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Employment Support
 - Health
 - Transportation
 - Other Life Necessities



TIMELINE FOR ABLE

November 2014	ABLE act passes at Federal Level
July 2015	ABLE passed in Wisconsin as part of 2015-17 Biennial Budget
October 2015	Begin Talks with Dept. of Administration
December 2015	Federal Congress eliminates residency requirements
March 2016	Governor Walker signs AB 731 into law
July 2016	First ABLE Accounts open in Wisconsin

CHANGES TO ABLE FROM AB 731

- Unexpected \$800,000 cost to state
- Changes from Federal Government made this possible
- Offers same income tax deduction
- Marketplace of ABLE programs for Wisconsinites
- Means opening accounts sooner



HOW DO I OPEN AN ACCOUNT.....

- Online
- Wisconsin Financial Advisor
- Online resource for Wisconsin:
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/88/macco/able-explanation-and-faqs/>

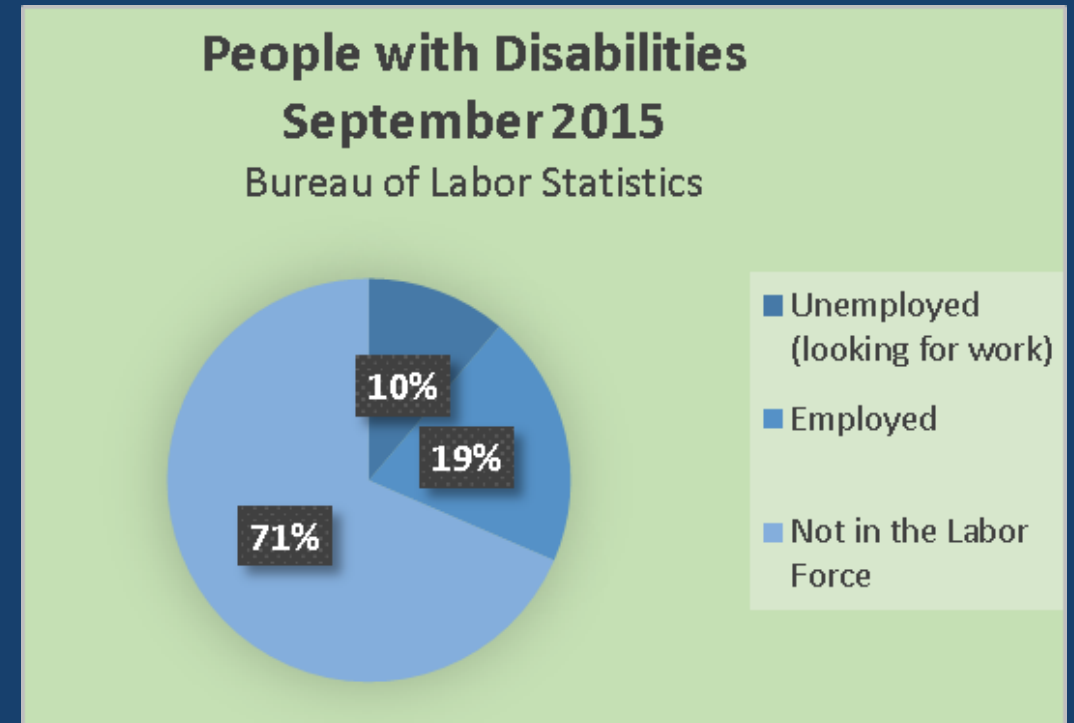
KELLY'S STORY

- 13 year old
- Self Advocate
- Going to be Dental Hygienist
- 3 indicators of success
 - Inclusion
 - High expectations
 - Paid work experience in High School
- Achieving her goals because of ABLE



SO WHAT'S NEXT?

- People with Disabilities represent 9% of Wisconsin's Workforces yet their employment rate less than a third the rate for people without disabilities
- 71% of disability community not in work force
- **WORK TO BE DONE**



PARTNERS IN BUSINESS (FROM HANDOUT)

- Medicaid dollars go directly to businesses
- Utilizes co-worker supports on On the Job Training
- Based off Dane County Model
- Would cut costs about 50% and mean employment of 70-80% of disability community
- Bill would create competitive grant to kick start program
- Could mean moving from 8,000 gainfully employed right now to 32,000
- Call your Representative/State Senator!

ANY QUESTIONS??