

Monday February 17th

## **Testimony of Andy Buck IUPAT DC 7 in support of the Wisconsin Opportunity Act**

### **Senate Bill 467 & Assembly Bill 508**

Submitted to the Members of the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development & the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate

#### **About:**

The International Union of Painters & Allied Trades, District Council 7, (IUPAT DC7), Represents the highest skilled, safety trained Painters, Glaziers, Drywall Finishers, Trade show and Paint makers in Wisconsin & the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our Organization provides Growth and Fairness to both our Members and Contractor Partners. We are committed to meeting the demands of contractors for a productive, skilled workforce by providing unsurpassed training and education opportunities for all IUPAT members. IUPAT members make a commitment to their training with a pay it forward model, allocating money to train the future generation of craftworkers.

#### **Issue & Response**

A Bureau of Labor Statistics survey in 2013, revealed only 1% of the jobs were required to have a college degree. With the Average Wisconsin student debt climbing to an average of \$ 30,000, according to a September 4<sup>th</sup>, Appleton Post crescent article. Apprenticeship programs have been known to be “The best kept secret around “ We need to focus on promoting apprenticeship programs and look to foster further relationships between rural and urban communities to expand the understanding of the value that apprenticeships bring to the table. The Average Wisconsin Apprentice finishes their apprenticeship, with a net gain of over \$ 161,000.

#### **Comments on Legislation**

**The IUPAT supports the passage of the Wisconsin Opportunity Act. The Wisconsin Opportunity Act will help foster partnerships, to educate and promote all types of career opportunities, in all communities throughout the state.**