

Rep. Tittl: Votes for COVID-19 response bill

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Madison, WI – State Representative Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc) voted for the [COVID-19 Response Bill](#) to help the state address the challenges from the coronavirus outbreak and assist Wisconsinites who are out of work. The Assembly approved the bill during Tuesday’s historic extraordinary session, which was done with a large number of representatives participating virtually for the first time in state history.

“It’s been a very stressful and trying time for everyone in this state,” said Rep. Tittl. “I’m pleased my Assembly colleagues and I could come together on this bipartisan bill, ensuring our state can better respond to the public health emergency while protecting the integrity of our state budget.”

The COVID-19 Response Bill eliminates the one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance benefits. The change would be applied retroactively to claims made after March 12th and run through February 7th, 2021. The bill also gives the Evers administration necessary flexibility and helps the state capture millions more in federal dollars.

The legislation also provides for the following:

- Eases licensing requirements for health care professionals and emergency medical responders
- Allows pharmacists to extend prescriptions
- Expands SeniorCare to include coverage of vaccinations
- Ensures no co-pays for COVID-19 testing
- Prohibits health insurance coverage discrimination based on COVID-19
- Provides the needed flexibilities to school districts to complete the school year

online

- Sets aside \$75 million to address future, unexpected needs that federal dollars don't cover
- Requires the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to develop a plan to assist the state's main industries (tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, construction and retail)

"I'm proud of the bipartisan negotiations that went into crafting this bill," said Rep. Tittl. "We are providing a level of certainty during these very uncertain times."

This legislation ensures Wisconsin will receive the entire \$2 billion in federal assistance for which Governor Evers has sole spending discretion. Assembly Republicans have asked the governor to prioritize the needs of the health care industry, workers, small businesses and local governments when allocating these dollars.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration on Wednesday.