

Sen. Craig: Statement on Governor Evers' shelter-in-place order

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Madison, WI — Today, State Senator David Craig (R-Town of Vernon) released the following statement relating to Governor Tony Evers' Shelter-in-Place Order:

"A decision of such magnitude like a 'shelter-in-place' order, regardless of what the government calls it, should only be established through the surety and specificity of an act of the legislature because of its extreme effects on Wisconsin families and businesses. Such action could stem the tide of confusion and anxiety being experienced by employers and employees all across the state.

"Further, Governor Evers needs to articulate the specific information he received which caused contradiction between his Friday statement 'I believe that we'll be able to avoid [a shelter-in-place order]' and today's statement that he will make such an order effective tomorrow.

"Additionally, last week I requested the Governor and Attorney General provide details as to how the government's actions abide by the constitutional strict scrutiny that is required. Their continued silence on these issues is unacceptable given the precipitously negative impacts on civil rights and the economy.

"Because of the Governor's extreme step, I believe the legislature should consider the following protections for Wisconsin citizens:

- Require legislative approval of any statewide "shelter-in-place" order for reasons of pandemic or infectious disease

- Require legislative passive review of any “Emergency Declaration” after 30 days, with affirmative approval needed for a state of emergency lasting longer than 60 days
- Require a written report detailing the satisfaction of strict scrutiny concerns be given to the legislature prior to a ban of gatherings of 50 or fewer is to be in effect
- Require an immediate report to the legislature of arrests for mass gathering violations

“The constitution was not designed to be disregarded in a time of crisis, in fact, it was specifically designed to be most valuable and applicable during times of crisis when liberties are most at risk.”