

For Release: April 1, 2020

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Senator Ringhand – Waive the waiting period for Unemployment Insurance

State Senator Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) is calling for the legislature to repeal the one week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Governor Evers has called for the suspension of the waiting period and legislation is drafted to address the problem.

“It is time for the legislature to answer the bi-partisan call to waive the one week waiting period for unemployment benefits,” Senator Ringhand said. “Families should not be punished just because their job evaporated when the pandemic arrived.”

The one week waiting period waiting week was enacted in 2011 under former Governor Walker as Act 32 and requires legislative action to repeal it.

Senator Ringhand added that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing undue stress for thousands of families, especially those who live paycheck to paycheck.

“Now is the time to take action and waive the waiting period,” Ringhand added. “This crisis is causing enough anxiety without asking families to wait another week before they can buy groceries or pay their bills.”

Senator Ringhand concluded that she believes there are enough votes to waive the waiting period if it were to come up for a vote. “Let’s get this done and ease the hardship for thousands of Wisconsin families.”

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