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### **Senator Ringhand: Bi-partisan COVID-19 legislation a good first step**

State Senator Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) praised the bi-partisan effort to pass legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Wisconsin. The State Senate unanimously supported the legislation, which now goes to Governor Evers.

“This is a good first step and will help Wisconsin families,” Senator Ringhand said. “This is a difficult time for everyone and we need to make sure that we do everything we can to help people get through this.”

The legislation suspends the one week waiting period for unemployment benefits. It will require insurance companies to cover the cost of COVID-19 tests and allow Wisconsin to access hundreds of millions of federal dollars to offset the costs of addressing this pandemic.

“It critical that unemployed workers get checks as quickly as possible,” Ringhand added. “The waiting period for unemployment is an unnecessary barrier that punishes far too many for families who desperately need relief today.”

While the legislation passed today will help Wisconsin address our most immediate concerns, Senator Ringhand expects that the legislature will need to come back as our recovery progresses. She strongly believes that the legislature will need to do more to protect first responders and health care workers.

“The first responders and health care workers are front line heroes in this battle, and they need our support.” Ringhand said.

Senator Ringhand added that recovering from this pandemic will be a slow process. Everyone has a role to play in reopening our local businesses, getting people back to work and bringing normalcy back to our state.

“Safer at home is working. We are flattening the curve. We need to stay the course and defeat this virus so people can get back to work. It will take some time, but we will return to normal.”

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