



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

December 03, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC

Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Bryan Steil
1408 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mark Pocan
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ron Kind
1502 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jim Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Representative Glenn Grothman
1427 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Tiffany
1714 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike Gallagher
1230 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. President and Members of Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

As you began considering the first federal legislation regarding COVID-19 in March, I wrote to you in support of a major investment of federal dollars to support and provide flexibility for states as we responded to the pandemic. Today, the situation in Wisconsin is significantly worse. In the absence of statewide mitigation efforts supported by public health and science similar to those being used in other states to prevent the spread, Wisconsin has become one of the nation's COVID-19 hotspots and there is a great need for additional federal support and resources.

Over the past few months, Wisconsin has experienced unprecedented and record-breaking days in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. 41 out of our 72 counties have critically high levels of COVID-19 disease activity and is currently among the worst states in the country in terms of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people. Our hospital systems, long term care facilities, and public health officials have been significantly strained, and we are experiencing crippling staffing shortages across our state.

This crisis has been exacerbated by a Legislature unwilling to meaningfully acknowledge, address, or act upon the crisis we face, which includes but is not limited to continued litigation efforts to end our statewide mitigation strategies. While other governors continue to turn the dial as needed to respond to fall surges occurring in their states and have legislative action to help support their state's response,

Wisconsin's State Legislature has passed one single piece of COVID-19 legislation and has not passed a bill on this issue or any others in the more than 230 days since then. It remains clear in my conversations with Republican leadership that it is unlikely a bill with the support and resources our state requires to maintain our current response efforts will reach my desk by the end of the year, if ever. As this virus continues to spread, we will do everything we can to continue our state's response at current levels but it is clear that Wisconsin must rely on action and support from the federal government to respond to this crisis, which is becoming especially imminent as we near the end of the year.

The uncertainty regarding additional assistance from the federal government has made and continues to make funding decisions and planning for the road ahead extremely difficult. With the dollars that were made available through the CARES Act, my administration has been able to provide \$35 million in funding for residents who are at risk of losing their homes, nearly \$400 million for businesses and organizations who have been struggling, \$50 million for farmers who need a hand and \$200 million for our local governments who have an ever-growing list of needs to respond to the pandemic. In addition to all the programs we have invested in, I have allocated approximately \$1 billion to public health infrastructure and emergency operations to combat the virus head-on and have a state-of-the-art response.

With the funds from the CARES Act, we have made significant and meaningful investment, but it remains clear that our needs for continuing to fight this virus will extend well beyond the end of the year and frontline workers, families, farmers, and businesses will continue to need our support. My administration is on pace to spend the federal dollars we have already received by the December 31, 2020 deadline. In January, we will still have Wisconsinites in danger of losing their homes, businesses and non-profits on the verge of going under, and local governments feeling the strain COVID-19 has put on their budgets. And in order to continue our response in terms of testing, contact tracing, providing PPE and providing aid to Wisconsin's families and business, we will need additional financial assistance from the federal government.

Moreover, the Wisconsin National Guard has been integral to our state's response from the beginning of the pandemic, including our statewide testing efforts. To this end, it is also vital to our response that President Trump fully fund the Wisconsin National Guard under an extension of Section 502(f)(2)(A) so our servicemembers can continue their good work on the front lines of this pandemic.

At a minimum, to continue to our current response just for the first quarter of 2021, we will need an additional \$58 million for COVID-19 testing sites, \$255 million for testing kits and lab diagnostics, \$36 million for contact tracing, \$105 million for hospital system surge capacity including continued operation of our alternate care facility, \$10 million for vaccine infrastructure readiness and \$2 million for public health guidance and awareness. In Wisconsin, where mitigation efforts have been challenged and overturned by the courts having a robust awareness and public education campaigns is an important tool.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and your swift action to ensure that Wisconsin and states across the nation have the ability to continue our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the looming December 31st deadline I cannot emphasize enough the importance of swift action from the federal government to ensure there are no gaps in our response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers
Governor