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Sen. Stroebel: Statement on Passage of AB 1 as Amended

Madison, WI – Today, State Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) released the following statement relating to the State Senate passing the COVID relief bill AB 1 as amended:

"I am a strong advocate for re-opening Wisconsin and rolling back the ineffective and unnecessary infringements on our freedom and liberties. I won't dispute that the version of AB 1 being advanced by the Senate does less than the version that cleared the Assembly last week. However, the goal is to put forward a bill that Gov. Evers could sign into law. I support the intent behind most of the provisions that were removed from the Assembly version of the bill. The areas these provisions covered are important and I will continue to fight to ensure the Legislature addresses them.

"Today, we saw the Democrats introduce a liberal wish list that does nothing to impact the spread of COVID but wastes taxpayer resources, reduces accountability and transparency in government, and prevents our economic recovery and prudent return to normalcy. Despite this unserious proposal, the Senate ultimately voted 29-2 in favor.

"With the Evers' administration's draconian statewide lockdown and gathering restrictions behind us, the biggest issue facing the reopening of schools, churches, businesses, and events is the lack of strong civil liability protections. The absence of these protections is one of the main issues that has stood in the way of a return to normalcy. Many other reforms would have a mitigated effect without strong civil liability protections in place.

"I am continuing to make it known in my caucus that my expectation following today's vote is for the Senate to finally take action to revoke the governor's endless public health emergency declarations. It's long past time for Republican legislators to stop deferring to the courts and shying away from 'tough votes.' My expectation is that there will be many future votes in the Senate that will clearly show the clear distinction between the Evers administration and the Senate Republican caucus."

Senator Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes parts of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties.