



TIP McGUIRE

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rep. McGuire, 608-266-5504

Rep. McGuire Co-Sponsors Comprehensive COVID-19 Package

MADISON – This morning, on the first day of the new legislative session, Wisconsin Assembly Democrats unveiled a comprehensive COVID-19 package to address the ongoing pandemic in our state. The legislation introduced today addresses critical needs in our communities, including necessary investments in COVID-19 testing, tracing, and vaccine roll-out, as well as support for our Healthcare Heroes, grants for small businesses, and child care assistance for working families.

“As cases continue to rise in our state, Wisconsin needs to bridge the gap between today and the full deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Rep. Tip McGuire. “The Wisconsin Legislature has been one of the least active state legislatures in addressing the global COVID-19 pandemic, but today, on the first day of the new legislative session, we have an opportunity for a fresh start: to take action on the most important issue facing our state, and protect the health, safety, and economic security of the people of Wisconsin.”

The legislative package includes the following provisions:

1. Funding and policies for continued public health response efforts - total of \$466M
 - a. COVID-19 testing: continue funding community testing sites - \$58M
 - b. Contact Tracing: further expand state and local contact tracing - \$36M
 - c. Testing Supplies and Lab Diagnostic Materials: distribute to testing sites statewide - \$255M
 - d. Hospital System Surge Capacity Support, including alternate care facility operations - \$105M
 - e. Vaccine distribution & awareness - \$12M
 - f. Policies to improve access to health care & reduce the cost of health care services

2. Funding for COVID-19 economic relief programs (all currently funded by CARES) - total of \$140M
 - a. Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (housed at DOA) - \$30M GPR
 - b. Food Security Initiative (housed at DATCP) - \$10M GPR
 - c. Child Care Counts Supplementary Payment Program (housed at DCF) - \$25M GPR
 - d. We're All In small business grants (housed at WEDC) - \$75M GPR

3. Health Care Heroes [LRB 6233/1]
 - a. Provide benefits for certain health care workers, including hazard pay, paid sick leave due to COVID, state-funded testing and treatment
 - b. Allow health care providers to apply to the state for reimbursement of hazard pay, paid sick leave
 - c. Accept the Medicaid expansion

4. Medical Assistance (MA) payments to hospitals during public health emergency
 - a. MA payments to hospitals for nursing facility level of care
 - b. MA payments for outpatient hospital services

5. Flexibility for calculation of school district pupil count
 - a. For the purposes of counting per pupil aid in 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years, allow the school district's pupil enrollment in the 2020-21 school year to be the great of its pupil enrollment in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year

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