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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2021

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COVID-19 Relief Bill Passes the Assembly

Madison, WI – Rep. Cindi Duchow (R-Delafield) voted in favor of legislation that provides aid for those who have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Assembly Bill 1 (AB 1) contains 44 provisions, including \$100 million in funds to help fight the pandemic, to benefit Wisconsin healthcare workers, businesses and vulnerable populations.

“COVID-19 has forced Wisconsinites to endure uncertainty when it came to their loved ones, careers, health care and businesses,” said Rep. Duchow. “These tools help give Wisconsinites their lives back and work to move the state forward with recovery.

AB 1 also aligns with federal guidance to allow residents in senior care facilities to label at least one person as an “essential visitor” so they may enter the facility to assist with things like emotional distress or weight loss due to lack of family support.

“There are a lot of great things in this bill, but one that is very near to my heart is the provision ensuring families can safely visit their loved ones in nursing homes and assisted living facilities to provide necessary support for those struggling in isolation,” said Rep. Duchow. “Extreme isolation has taken a devastating toll on senior residents as many have been confined to their rooms for months and have been unable to see their families.”

In addition to ensuring Wisconsinites’ access to necessary medical care and giving relief to Wisconsin seniors, this new legislation provides assistance to hospitals, protects schools and businesses from certain liabilities, and requires the Governor to provide a plan to reduce outstanding unemployment claims.

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Representative Duchow represents the 99th Assembly District which includes the communities of Chenequa, Delafield, Dousman, Hartland, Merton, Nashotah, Oconomowoc Lake, Ottawa, and Wales; and portions of Genesee, North Prairie, Oconomowoc, and Summit.