



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland
(608) 267-9649

Rep. Shankland: Statement on Assembly Session

Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement following today's session of the Wisconsin State Assembly:

"When Republican senators voted to end Wisconsin's public health emergency this week in order to end the statewide mask mandate, they also voted to gut \$49 million in food assistance for nearly a quarter of a million Wisconsinites in the process. I'm disturbed and disappointed that in the middle of an ongoing pandemic, with new and more contagious strains emerging, they chose to rush this through the process without a public hearing and pass it over the objections of the medical and education community.

"While I'm relieved that the State Assembly did not take up Senate Joint Resolution 3 today as originally scheduled, I also am concerned that it could come back for a vote. Meanwhile, the State Assembly and Senate have still not agreed upon a COVID-19 relief bill. We've been living with the Covid-19 pandemic for nearly a year now, and in that time the Wisconsin Legislature has passed exactly one bill to provide relief. People in our communities are struggling to get by. We owe our constituents better than this. We owe it to them to do our jobs by negotiating a pandemic response bill that brings meaningful relief and assistance, not playing power games that end up taking much-needed assistance away.

"While we're starting to see a hopeful end in sight as vaccine distribution ramps up, we aren't out of the woods yet when it comes to this pandemic. We simply cannot afford to let up now. Wisconsin families, businesses, and frontline workers are depending on all of us to keep masking up and taking appropriate precautions to protect ourselves and each other. Our constituents are depending on those of us in state government to care for our communities, look out for their best interests, and do everything in our power to provide the resources to help our state weather the storm.

"The best time for us to act would have been months ago. The next best time is now. To wait any longer is unacceptable, and to choose playing politics over supporting our communities is inexcusable."

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