



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2021

CONTACT: Van Wanggaard

608-266-1832

COVID-Relief Bill Heads to Governor's Desk

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Senate gave final approval to Assembly Bill 1 (AB1), the COVID-relief bill today on a party-line vote. The bill now heads to Governor Evers for his signature.

“Despite all the back and forth in Madison, we have provided important relief to residents that have been impacted by COVID,” said Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “AB 1 preserves federal aid, extends unemployment benefits, and provides liability protection for schools, non-profits and small businesses. It makes sure that no one is forced to get a vaccine against their will, and encourages schools to reopen safely and quickly. These are items that everyone should be able to get behind.”

Assembly Bill 1 contains all of the provisions Governor Evers offered as a “compromise” last month. The bill also adds to the Governor’s bill protections against government-mandated vaccinations, allowing “essential visitors” for those in nursing homes, and allows churches to open, if they desire. It provides \$100 million in needed funding for testing and vaccinations, and aid. The bill also extends unemployment benefits for Wisconsinites so that the state can continue to access federal aid. The deadline for maintaining this federal aid is Sunday.

“It’s important that the Governor sign this bill - quickly. If the bill isn’t signed by Sunday, unemployed workers will lose benefits on Monday,” said Wanggaard. “We’ll lose \$1.3 million a week in federal benefits, lose money for testing, and allow Wisconsinites to be charged for vaccinations. The bill needs to become law.”

Wanggaard also noted the long and very public process of law making that went into AB1.

“This bill has been through the wringer. Everyone, the public, the Senate, the Assembly, and the Governor has had input into this bill. Its starting point was what the Governor proposed, it was amended, and amended, and amended, and amended again. Compromise isn’t getting what you want, it’s getting what you can live with. That’s what legislating and governing is.”

###

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21