



ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE SENATOR • 1ST SENATE DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-3512

Fax: (608) 282-3541

Sen.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

State Capitol · P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Senator André Jacque

February 16, 2021
(608)-266-3513

**SEN. JACQUE BILLS PROTECTING FREEDOM TO WORSHIP
AND PREVENTING FORCED VACCINATIONS PASS SENATE**
Measures restrain government officials' "emergency" pandemic powers

MADISON...Wisconsin citizens would be free to worship and not subject to forced vaccination under legislation passed this afternoon by the full State Senate. The proposals, Senate Bills 4 and 7, were overwhelmingly supported by citizens at a public hearing last month.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), author of the measures, said citizens have a fundamental right to expect that their Constitutionally-protected freedoms will be respected by officials at all levels of government.

"These two measures help ensure that government officials cannot use Covid-19 as an excuse to grab power at the expense of our liberties," Sen. Jacque said. "A successful virus response requires time, communication, and trust, not heavy-handed big government mandates."

The bills were also included as items within the COVID relief measure recently vetoed by Governor Evers:

Respect for vaccination decision-making (Senate Bill 4, passed by voice vote)

Sen. Jacque introduced this legislation to ensure Public Health Officers and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) are not able to require vaccination or require a person to show proof of vaccination for COVID-19.

A recent ABC News/Ipsos poll showed that over 60% of Americans polled did not believe their state should require that people get vaccinated before returning to work or school, much less forcing the general public. It has also been shown by European Union-funded research that countries where vaccination is mandatory do not usually reach better coverage than neighbor or similar countries where there is no legal obligation.

"I am not anti-vaccine; in fact, I was concerned by the Evers administration's early failed performance in distributing the COVID vaccine," Sen. Jacque said. "But at the same time, we can't allow health care to become coercive and force people to receive a shot- especially when individual health counter indications and religious or ethical concerns exist."

Freedom of Worship (Senate Bill 7, passed by voice vote)

With facilities like liquor stores and abortion clinics previously recognized by public health departments as essential businesses and being allowed to operate without harassment, churches and other places of worship were shut down. This bill will protect people's right to freely assemble and worship.

The measures now head to the State Assembly.

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.

###