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**SEN. JACQUE'S BILLS PROTECTING FREEDOM TO WORSHIP
AND MEDICAL DECISION-MAKING PASS STATE ASSEMBLY**

Applauds bi-partisan support for restraining officials' "emergency" pandemic powers

MADISON, WI... Wisconsin citizens would be free to worship and not subject to forced vaccination under three bills passed this afternoon in a bi-partisan fashion by the State Assembly. The legislation was overwhelmingly supported at both Senate and Assembly committee hearings earlier this year.

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

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

No Individual Vaccine Mandate (Assembly Bill 23, passed 60-33)

Sen. Jacques co-authored 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.

No Employer Vaccine Mandate (Assembly Bill 25, passed 59-35)

Under this proposal, state residents could not be required to be vaccinated or show proof of Covid-19 vaccinations as a condition of employment.

"I am not anti-vaccine," Sen. Jacques said. "But at the same time, we can't allow health care and employment to become coercive and force people to receive a shot they may be uncomfortable taking."

Freedom of Worship (Assembly Bill 24, passed 61-33)

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.

Sen. Jacques said he appreciated the support of every Republican member of the Assembly present, as well as a number of his colleagues from across the aisle, in the passage of the bill with nearly two-thirds support.

"It's clear there remains broad public support for these common-sense proposals," Sen. Jacques said.

Because of minor technical amendments added, the measures now head to the State Senate, which had approved companion versions of Assembly Bills 23 and 24 (Senate Bills 4 and 7) last month on voice votes.

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