



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. Emerson Calls on State Legislature to Take Immediate Action on Federal UI Funding**

MADISON - Last week, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law, which provides an additional \$300 per week in federal funding for unemployed Americans over the next several months. In order for Wisconsinites to receive this additional federal funding, Wisconsin must suspend its one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, which Republicans put into state law in 2011 and which went back into effect on Sunday, March 14th.

**“We must take immediate action to suspend Wisconsin’s one-week UI waiting period so unemployed Wisconsinites can get the additional federal funding authorized under the American Rescue Plan,”** said Rep. Emerson (D-Eau Claire). **“These funds have already been authorized for use by Congress and we owe it to our constituents to do everything in our power to get those dollars into their pockets.”**

Last spring, Republicans’ delay in suspending Wisconsin’s one-week waiting period resulted in Wisconsin losing \$25 million in federal unemployment insurance funding. Under the American Rescue Plan, Wisconsin could now lose out on about \$2.6 million per week in federal funding for each week the waiting period is in place.

**“Financial assistance has proven critical to help people cover basic needs during this pandemic,”** said Rep. Emerson. **“An additional \$300 per week can mean saving a family from having to make the choice between paying for groceries or paying for rent. Let’s not miss out on this crucial federal funding simply because Wisconsin Republicans won’t suspend their own arbitrary obstacles.”**

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