



BARBARA DITTRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Dittrich Statement on the Governor's Use of Federal Funds

Madison – Representative Barbara Dittrich (*R – Oconomowoc*) issued the following statement on Tuesday in response to the Governor's use of the funds coming to Wisconsin from the *American Rescue Plan*:

“One of the most shocking parts of the governor's vague proposal was that he did not even mention directing funds to one of our greatest areas of need — long-term care. The 38th Assembly District has one of the highest concentrations of long-term care facilities in the state. Because of that, I have been keenly aware of how far short the governor has fallen in adequately funding our long-term care facilities since the beginning of this pandemic. Nearly half of all COVID-19 related deaths came from those facilities, and the administration continues revising those numbers upward. Yet, Gov. Evers spent less than 10% of his CARES Act discretionary funding to this much-needed sector. 45% of Wisconsin's 6,598 COVID deaths, or nearly 3,000 of those losses, have occurred in Wisconsin's LTC facilities. (<https://bit.ly/3sBA9AD>) These care homes for our vulnerable loved ones have borne the brunt of this pandemic. Many lost their lives while they were kept isolated from the family and friends they hold dear. Even the healthy have suffered decline brought on by this isolation. Staff have worked tirelessly to protect residents, many answering the call to work double shifts because of limited staffing. It is past time that the governor move those most susceptible to COVID-19 to the front of the line with funding rather than leaving them to struggle and die.

While we can definitely agree that there is a great need to expand broadband in our state, we need the governor to work with us to more boldly and bravely address the most pressing damage caused by this pandemic. I pray that when he hears our shared vision, he will come to his senses and stop working like a solo act on this important state issue.”

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