



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Jobs and Economy Democrats: Statement on Recent Committee Activity**

MADISON - Today the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy split along party lines on several GOP proposals that would restrict executive authority to allocate federal American Rescue Plan Act funds following a hearing on the bills the day before. While Assembly Bills 233, 234, and 242 will advance to the full Assembly, Governor Evers recently vetoed a similar legislative maneuver. Under state and federal law these emergency federal funds are provided directly to the state's executive and agencies.

The Democratic members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy provided the following statements:

"It is unfortunate that while the committee has not met in more than a year, despite the health and economic damage caused by the global pandemic, this week we only considered bills that are not likely to become law," Ranking Member Ohnstad noted. "Not only do these proposals micromanage and likely delay much-needed assistance, but they would make decisions before full federal guidance is given by the Treasury Department on allowable uses of the funds."

"The We're All In grants and other efforts have received bipartisan praise. The CARES funded programs were successful largely because we were able to get funds to recipients fast and there was flexibility to meet specific needs," Representative Bowen said. "I want to work in a fashion where we find common ground to help as many Wisconsin businesses as possible, but I have concerns with how these proposals would impact our state's ability to get the resources into the community where it is needed."

"We all support small businesses and our recreation and tourism industries, who have been deeply impacted by the public health crisis, but the bills before us are more about politics than policy," Representative Doyle said. "The real concern seems to be about wresting more authority from Governor Evers rather than making a meaningful impact toward our economic recovery. Governor Evers has already committed to three times more funding targeted to small businesses than the Republican bill."

"We need to act with urgency, but we need to get it right. It is premature and irresponsible to make commitments before we know the allowable uses of the funds," Representative Shelton stated. "Our GOP colleagues seem to have hurt feelings that state and federal law does not include them in the distribution of the relief funds. We should be working together in a bipartisan manner to address the needs of the state, but sadly rather than partnering with the Evers Administration, the bills before us change the law for a power grab by one side of the aisle."

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