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Rep. Considine Statement on Assembly Floor Session

Madison – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly discussed and passed 11 proposals relating to the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) issued this statement following the votes:

"Just as we did three weeks ago, the Assembly convened this afternoon to debate whether the legislature should control Wisconsin's federal COVID-19 relief funds. Just as I stated three weeks ago, I disagree with this. Governor Evers spent the last year funneling billions of federally appropriated dollars into our businesses, communities, and families. He proved he is an effective distributor as he worked with stakeholders from all across Wisconsin to achieve this.

"My thoughts haven't changed in the past three weeks. Governor Evers spent the past year working on behalf of Wisconsin while the legislature refused to meet to pass additional COVID-19 legislation. Additionally, these bills are simply bad public policy. Wisconsin's nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau expects that many of the provisions aren't allowable expenses under the ARPA guidelines. This could cost Wisconsin taxpayers billions of dollars.

"Instead of introducing ill-advised policy, I want to work on drafting bipartisan policies with my colleagues. Instead of irresponsibly funding programs without U.S. Department of Treasury guidance, I want to work with our state and federal partners to ensure a smooth rollout of ARPA funds. Instead of undermining the long-standing authority of the Governor's office, I want to work to eradicate issues Wisconsinites are facing. I am hopeful that my colleagues and I will get to working on these priorities in the coming days and weeks."

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