



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Representative Ohnstad: Statement on Legislative Session

MADISON - Today the Wisconsin State Assembly was in session to act on a number of legislative proposals, including several GOP bills that would restrict executive authority to allocate federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. The ARPA-funded bills largely passed along party-lines and 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.

Representative Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) provided the following statement on today's legislative session:

"The Legislature has the opportunity and the responsibility to take action on issues impacting the people of Wisconsin as we work through the pandemic and focus on our recovery and growth. Unfortunately, this week we saw more politics over meaningful policy proposals.

While we all want to support our state's small businesses and many of the other areas our colleagues would earmark these funds for, federal and state law provide the executive branch the authority to distribute these funds and Governor Evers has already committed to three times more funding for small businesses than the Republican bill.

Wisconsin's We're All In small business grant program and other federal CARES Act funded efforts received bipartisan acclaim and these were successful largely because funds got to recipients fast and there was flexibility to meet specific needs.

I think we should strive to act in a bipartisan manner to get the best results for the people we represent, but this was another power grab attempt to tip the scales and assume the authority provided to the Evers Administration. I encourage Republican leaders to meet with Governor Evers to find areas of common ground and work in partnership to ensure all resources continue to be spent efficiently and effectively.

On a more positive note, several important proposals did receive broad bipartisan support today and will go to Governor Evers to be signed into law, including expanding access for law enforcement officers and firefighters to receive workers compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder and requiring the teaching of the Holocaust and other genocides in the state's educational curriculum."

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65th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT