



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

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More Work to Do on COVID-19 Relief

Even as amended before the Senate, Assembly Bill 1 still fails to address major issues facing Wisconsin families

MADISON - Today, the Wisconsin State Senate voted on an amended version of Assembly Bill 1 that was passed by the Assembly last week.

Senate Agard and Senate democrats offered an amendment that would have added many provisions, including: funding for community testing, supports vaccine distribution, provides rental assistance and small business grants, allows hazard pay for our healthcare heroes, and more. The amendment was ultimately voted down along party lines.

Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released this statement regarding the Senate passing an amended version of Assembly Bill 1:

“Our friends and neighbors all across Wisconsin are suffering from the devastating effects of COVID-19 and have been suffering for nearly ten months. During that ten months, our state legislature met once, while other state legislatures took continuous action to address the evolving challenges of this pandemic. The situation we find ourselves in today did not have to end up this way. Republican leadership sued Governor Evers for trying to save lives and our state became a COVID hotspot because of this action to prevent basic public health measures. Over 5,000 people have died in Wisconsin from COVID-19. It did not have to be this way.

“While I’m glad we took some steps that will help our state’s response, it is a huge missed opportunity that this bill doesn’t do more. I’m calling on my legislative colleagues across the aisle and across Wisconsin to earnestly come together to solve the real problems before us.

“We should be addressing public health response supports, supporting our health care heroes who have kept our communities healthy and cared for us, supports for small businesses, removing barriers to unemployment assistance, creating flexibility to schools for pupil counts, and funding for economic relief programs including rent and food.

“There is much more work to be done. There are families facing challenges at kitchen tables all across Wisconsin. There are hurdles in front of ordinary Wisconsinites and our Main Street business. During this unprecedented time with a global pandemic and after 272 days with no action, it is on all of us to take action and do more for the ordinary folks of our state.

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