



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Representative John Nygren

July 8, 2020
(608) 266-2343

Calls on Governor Evers to Provide Unemployment Relief – End Unemployment Backlog

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance released the following statement:

“Governor Evers is failing the people of Wisconsin. He is [openly admitting](#) he has no answers for people waiting for their unemployment benefits,” Rep. Nygren said. “It has been over three months since the governor declared a state of emergency and unemployment claims spiked. His administration’s failure and apathy must force consideration of emergency actions.”

The Governor has discretion over the use of federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) in the CARES Act. The CRF funds can be used for [emergency relief to individuals](#) that have lost income due to COVID-19 and can be issued as loans in certain circumstances. Roughly \$280 million remains to be allocated by the Governor. The Governor should explore issuing direct payments or loans to individuals that have been waiting for their UI claim to be completed since the COVID-19 emergency began. Other criteria can be added to qualify for this emergency relief so individuals who have had no income for months can get some cash for emergency expenses. Repayments of the forgivable loans could be deposited into the UI Trust Fund to offset employer taxes. Every \$10 million used could provide the average state regular UI payment for four weeks to nearly 8,000 claimants. This could provide a bridge to give DWD time to get its act together. The program could be voluntary and scalable.

“While roughly 150,000 unemployment claimants have been waiting for months without a decision, Governor Evers has been focused on secretly taping legislators in Madison and playing partisan politics,” Rep. Nygren said. “Governor Evers and his appointees think they are doing a [great job](#) and are perfectly fine with the backlog [going on for months](#). Governor Evers is out of touch and not in control of his administration and people are suffering because of it. It is well past time for action from the Governor.”

Representative Nygren has also [called on Governor Evers](#) to open call centers seven days a week with extended hours and to perform a comprehensive examination of the unemployment claims process to identify road blocks and inefficiencies in order to speed up claims.

###