



## JILL BILLINGS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 4, 2021

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### **Rep. Billings Continuing to Champion COVID-19 Relief** *Co-Sponsors COVID-19 Legislation on First Day of 2021-22 Legislative Session*

La Crosse, Wis – Today, Rep. Jill Billings (D-La Crosse) introduced COVID-19 response legislation with her Assembly Democratic colleagues, continuing her work on the urgent needs facing our state in addressing this pandemic. The 2021-2022 legislative session officially began today, necessitating COVID-19 legislation to be introduced under the new session. Assembly Democrats took immediate action to introduce this on day one, to not miss further opportunities to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

“I have never stopped advocating for COVID-19 protections and economic recovery initiatives for our state,” said Rep. Jill Billings “The legislation introduced today is a continuation of this action and a strong proposal that the newly inaugurated legislature should review and vote on swiftly.”

The bill, LRB 0993/1, encompasses many of the proposals Governor Evers introduced most recently in November 2020, and expands upon his proposal to include several other provisions brought forth by constituencies across the state. The legislation also includes language from the Health Care Heroes legislation (2019-2020 LRB 6233) that accepts federal Medicaid expansion dollars and provides further protections for frontline health care workers. The bill also provides for continued COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and vaccine distribution, as well as flexibility for school districts, improvements to the unemployment insurance system, and economic relief for businesses. Many of the measures were also included in the bipartisan legislation passed in April 2020, known as Act 185.

“Nothing should be holding the legislature back from meeting virtually to discuss and pass this legislation,” said Rep. Billings. “This bill is common-sense, and includes basic measures that should be apolitical. Our communities deserve a legislature willing to stop the partisan-bickering and stall-tactics and get to work to provide economic relief and basic public health protections. The new legislative session allows us a new start, and hopefully a better way of doing business in Madison. I for one, am ready and willing to get to work and continue my record of bipartisanship.”

*Rep. Jill Billings serves the 95th District in the Wisconsin State Assembly. The 95th district includes all of the city of La Crosse, town of Campbell and a portion of the town of Shelby.*

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