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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 29TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Moses Supports Amended COVID-19 Relief Bill

Madison, WI – Rep. Clint Moses (R-Menomonie) voted for the amended Assembly Bill 1 (AB1) that provides the state with tools to combat the pandemic. The Assembly amended legislation ensuring Wisconsinites will have access to necessary medication, COVID tests and vaccines, while limiting government overreach.

"The coronavirus has affected everyone in our communities and we should work together to defeat the virus but not at the expense of our freedoms," said Rep. Moses.

The bill prohibits employers, the Department of Health Services (DHS) and local health officers from mandating the vaccine as a condition for employment. In addition, the legislation states that DHS and local public health officers may not close places of worship.

"This relief bill allows people to choose what is best for their families," said Rep. Moses. "One thing I am happy to see on the bill again is that businesses and schools will not be able to require the vaccine for employment or attendance in school."

The amended legislation continues to provide support to hospitals and other critical areas of need, while building up the workforce capacity. AB1 allows dentists and pharmacy students to administer the vaccine which will help speed-up the vaccination process. It also makes the vaccine readily available for those who wish to receive it. The bill protects schools and businesses from certain liabilities to reduce the possibility of frivolous lawsuits. In addition, nursing homes and assisted living facilities will allow residents to label a loved one as an "essential visitor," safely opening these facilities to much needed family contact.

A major issue that arose during the pandemic was the backlog of unemployment insurance claims that made individuals wait months for their benefits. This legislation requires the Governor to provide a plan to reduce outstanding claims and increase the call center hours to assist those out of work.

AB1 also protects our state and its citizens from government overreach by establishing legislative oversight of any new federal COVID dollars.

"We are all fighting to overcome the virus and the effects it had on our lives and businesses. This bill will provide relief for citizens in the 29th District without taking away our individual freedoms," said Rep. Moses. "I look forward to the Senate concurring on the bill and the governor signing it into law."

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The 29th Assembly District includes portions of Dunn and St. Croix Counties including the communities of Baldwin, Boyceville, Glenwood City, Menomonie, New Richmond, and Woodville.