Office: (608) 266-7683 Toll Free: (888) 529-0029 Rep.Moses@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708-8953

Contact: Rep. Clint Moses

(608) 266-7683

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Rep. Moses Rejects Unlawful Government Overreach

Madison, WI – Rep. Clint Moses (R-Menomonie) voted to approve Senate Joint Resolution 3 (SJR3) that repeals the governor's executive order that declared a state of emergency again without legislative approval. <u>Wisconsin law</u> clearly establishes a state of emergency shall not exceed 60 days, unless extended by a joint resolution of the legislature.

"Governor Evers continues to make emergency declarations outside the law," said Rep. Moses. "Ideally in our current situation the governor would work with the legislature to come up with solutions which he has not."

Rep. Moses has repeatedly stated that the vote is not about masks. This morning he joined his Assembly Republican colleagues in sending a letter to the governor requesting that they work together on reasonable mitigation requirements in places that are susceptible to transmission of the virus to protect those who are especially vulnerable. The letter asks Governor Evers and his administration to introduce an administrative rule to the Legislature as well as require the state to pay for COVID-19 tests that anyone may take, free of charge.

The governor declared the first public health emergency last March due to COVID-19. The Wisconsin State Supreme Court ruled last May that state health orders must be promulgated as rules and go through the administrative rule process that involves the legislature. Since then, he has issued four successive, unlawful orders, with the most recent one being on January 19, 2021.

"My problem is not regarding whether masks work, it is with Governor Evers emergency orders violating the WI constitution which I was sworn in to protect," said Rep. Moses.

Rep. Moses also approved an amendment to Assembly Bill 1, the COVID-19 Relief Bill, to ensure that the state captures roughly \$50 million a month in federal food assistance. Both the bill and the resolution head to the state Senate for consideration.

Wisconsin joins roughly half of the states in the country in challenging the executive branch's overreach in its response to the coronavirus. According to a recent national report, lawmakers in 27 states have introduced more than 150 bills and resolutions to curtail governors' emergency powers and overreach during the pandemic.

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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.

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