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**Rep. Tranel: Unemployment Insurance Delays Hurt Families**

Madison, WI – State Representative Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) is calling on Governor Tony Evers to use a small portion of the $1.8 billion discretionary federal funds from the CARES Act to provide financial relief to unemployed Wisconsinites who have been waiting months for Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to provide unemployment benefits.

“I’ve heard from many constituents who are experiencing financial difficulties because they were furloughed or lost their job due to COVID-19,” said Rep. Tranel. “Unfortunately, too many of them have applied for unemployment insurance, and not received any benefits yet.”

Today, Rep. Tranel joined his legislative colleagues to call on DWD to use unspent federal funds from the CARES Act to provide temporary financial assistance to individuals who are still waiting for UI benefit claims to be reviewed, processed, and approved.

This bridge loan program would provide funds to individuals waiting for their unemployment claim to be adjudicated. The temporary payments would provide financial relief while individuals wait for the Department of Workforce Development to process UI claims.

Republicans in the Legislature previously called on Governor Evers and DWD to open the call centers seven days a week with extended hours, pre-pay UI claims while a full review is conducted, and call applicants and businesses to verify applications instead of mailing verification letters.

“DWD should be quickly processing claims, answering phones and emails 24/7,” said Rep. Tranel. “There are nearly 150,000 individuals across Wisconsin waiting, and some of my constituents have been waiting for over three months for UI benefits. This is totally unacceptable and hurts southwest Wisconsin families.”

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