



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

January 14, 2021

Ms. Andrea Palm  
Secretary-Designee  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson Street  
Madison, WI 53703

**Delivered Electronically**

Dear Secretary-Designee Palm:

**The current status of the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Program is unacceptable.** We are 40<sup>th</sup> in the country for distribution and you are holding back our local healthcare providers who are trying to save lives!

You have had months to design a vaccine distribution plan that would deploy vaccines quickly and efficiently. You have all of the tools and money you need at your disposal. Multiple entities have offered to help you distribute the vaccine! Our hospitals can do this for you, if you let them. **Get out of the way!**

Our people are waiting and hundreds of vaccines are sitting in storage while you figure out the politics of distribution rather than just getting the vaccine out to the people. **What are you waiting for?**

We have been in contact with our local community hospitals and have learned that they are ready to take next steps in vaccine distribution, but they are waiting on you and your department. They have vaccines – on hand – and want to vaccinate our citizens. But you are stopping them.

In fact, one hospital told us that they were able to complete all of their 1A vaccinations and wanted to move on to 1B vaccinations, but were told that they would be “sanctioned” by the department if they did so. You are forcing them to choose whether to save lives or ignore your ridiculous rules.

On your website, it says: *As a state, we will progress to Phase 1b only when a critical mass of those included in the first phase have been vaccinated. While some counties, cities, or hospitals have made good progress vaccinating their Phase 1a recipients because their demand and delivery system has been strong – as a state, we do not yet have adequate supply to move on to the next phase.*

What is critical mass? Why are you putting peoples’ lives at risk for an arbitrary number? Let our local healthcare providers save lives. Stop micro-managing our hospitals, providers and public health departments. **We should be vaccinating everyone who wants a vaccine as fast as we can. No vaccines should be sitting in storage while we have people who need them.**

**What are you waiting for?**

Sincerely,

**Howard Marklein**  
State Senator  
17<sup>th</sup> Senate District

**Travis Tranel**  
State Representative  
49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

**Tony Kurtz**  
State Representative  
50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

**Todd Novak**  
State Representative  
51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

cc: Governor Tony Evers (electronic delivery)