



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Assembly Takes Up and Passes Legislation Providing Unemployment Insurance Assistance and Liability Protections for Businesses, Schools and Local Governments

Madison, WI – Today the State Assembly took up and passed [legislation](#) that directs Governor Evers to upgrade the Unemployment Insurance (UI) computer systems at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). The legislation also provides additional relief to individuals that have lost their jobs at no fault of their own. Additionally, provisions to protect businesses, schools and local governments from frivolous lawsuits were taken up and passed.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) voted to support today’s legislation and released the following statement:

“The governor has had the tools necessary to help out of work Wisconsinites all along. His call for Special Session was merely blaming the Legislature for his incompetent management. Most of what we took up and passed today was basically re-affirming the tools he already has at his disposal to make improvements within DWD. We also provided guidelines and a roadmap for the administration to follow to make those improvements.

“The governor and his administration abruptly shut down the state last year with no preparation or plan to help those in need. He put thousands of hard-working taxpayers out of work and left them to fend for themselves. For a troubling number of Wisconsinites, last year their state government wasn’t there for them when they needed it the most, and that included a large number of constituents in the 70th Assembly District. The stories were tragic. A large amount of my work last year involved working with my staff to help plead with DWD to provide aid where it was warranted and needed. On another note, the provisions we took up today to protect businesses, schools and local governments is important and I’m glad we were able to move those forward.”

In an [audit](#) related to processing unemployment insurance claims put together by the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau, released in December of 2020, they stated that DWD was responsible 11 of the 13 weeks (84.6%) that it took, on average, to resolve the initial claims of individuals evaluated, and that the agency had not resolved issues even though it had the information needed to do so.

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties