



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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VanderMeer Health Care Bills Pass Senate, Assembly Takes up Number of Bills Prohibiting Government Overreach and Providing Oversight

Madison, WI – The State Assembly and State Senate each held floor sessions yesterday. A number of bills were passed by both houses, respectively, and two health care bills authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) will now be sent to the governor.

[Assembly Bill 125](#), relating to the regulation of Physician Assistants, was approved by the Senate after being passed by the Assembly last week. [Assembly Bill 148](#), legislation that provides tools to health care providers as they continue to deal with COVID-19 circumstances and also makes it easier for health care professionals to begin practicing in Wisconsin while preserving quality of care, was amended by the Senate, passed, and re-approved by the Assembly as amended.

Representative VanderMeer released the following statement on yesterday's actions:

"Since last year, under the guise of pandemic response, lamentably, a number of government officials from the state, local, and federal level have prioritized sweeping government mandates over personal responsibility and the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. Surprisingly, a certain segment of the population is okay with giving up their rights to government and government officials, but I'm not and a large number of those I serve aren't okay with that either. A lot of what we took up and passed yesterday directly addresses a number of serious concerns that constituents throughout the 70th Assembly District have voiced since early last year.

"On another note, I was happy to see that the Senate passed the Physician Assistant legislation that we passed in the Assembly last year and again last week. That bill was brought forward by Physician Assistants from throughout the state. It will do them a lot of good professionally and also help patients seeking care. I think AB 148 was good as passed by the Assembly last week and I'm glad a number of strong provisions remained after the Senate's actions, but I think it's unfortunate that there wasn't strong enough advocacy in that house to pass that bill intact."

The Assembly also passed bills that limit government overreach and allow for public input in the allocation of federal stimulus dollars, including legislation that prohibits government from mandating vaccinations and closing places of worship, and legislation that prohibits certain government officials from mandating COVID-19 vaccinations. Additionally, legislation that prohibits an employer from requiring a vaccination for employment and legislation that requires the Evers administration to develop a plan for state employees to return to in-person work was passed.

Included in the package of bills is the [Truth in Spending Act](#), which establishes legislative oversight of the billions of federal COVID dollars coming to Wisconsin. The language in the Truth in Spending Act is modeled closely after the language that Democrats approved in 2009 to allow the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to provide oversight in the distribution of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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