



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Assembly Prioritizes Plan to Invest Federal Relief Funds During Floor Session

Madison, WI – Yesterday during a floor session, the State Assembly passed a number of bills that provide a plan for federal funding coming to the state from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It's estimated that \$16 billion is coming to Wisconsin as a result of the federal legislation, and of that, \$3.2 billion allocated for Wisconsin will be state discretionary federal relief funding. The bills taken up and passed provide a plan from Assembly Republicans to allocate the roughly \$3.2 billion in discretionary funding.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) co-authored [Assembly Bill 236](#) with Representative Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield), which devotes \$150 million in grants for nursing homes and assisted living facilities and provides bonuses to workers at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. "Roughly half of the COVID deaths in Wisconsin have been in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. They've really borne the brunt of mismanagement coming from the governor's Department of Health and are really struggling right now. It only makes sense that they should be one of the primary benefactors of these funds," VanderMeer said.

"We're in a situation right now where the federal government is creating needless risk for future generations. The money is coming, and as elected officials, we should have a plan and prioritize these funds. Governor Evers seems to remain steadfast in his go-it-alone approach, but I was happy to support this package of bills today because I know that the investments reflect areas of importance to the residents and families of the 70th Assembly District. Two bills we heard and passed in the Rural Development Committee last week are a good examples of that. [Assembly Bill 239](#), authored by Representative Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer), invests an additional \$500 million in broadband expansion grants, and [Assembly Bill 235](#), authored by Representative Dave Armstrong (R-Rice Lake), devotes \$50 million to rural economic development grants and \$50 million to farmer assistance and support funds," VanderMeer continued.

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