



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Assembly Passes COVID-19 Coronavirus Relief Package in Extraordinary Session**

**Madison** – Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) voted today to support legislation designed to provide state level relief related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus public health crisis. The [bill](#) will help the state address the challenges from the Coronavirus outbreak and assist Wisconsinites who are out of work. The legislation gives the Evers Administration necessary flexibility and helps the state capture millions more in federal dollars. The Assembly approved the bill during Tuesday’s historic extraordinary session, which was done with a large number of representatives participating virtually for the first time in state history.

“Unfortunately, we’re all going to be dealing with the fallout from this public health crisis for a long time, but the package we took up and passed today is an important first step. There’s relief provided for workers and those unemployed, and healthcare providers and those seeking care, among others. Additionally, there are provisions included for first responder’s workman’s compensation coverage, and that’s very important,” VanderMeer said.

“I’m glad that we were able to come up with a bipartisan piece of legislation that allows the Evers Administration to fully capture the nearly \$2 billion that the federal government has allocated in response to the crisis that the administration has discretion over. My colleagues and I have asked the governor to prioritize the needs of the health care industry, workers, small businesses and local governments when allocating these dollars, and I hope that happens,” VanderMeer continued.

The bill eliminates the one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance benefits. The change would be applied retroactively to claims made after March 12 and run through February 7, 2021. The bill also allows the state to capture more Medicaid dollars from the federal government, which will be helpful as more individuals may need to access the coverage due to a loss of work during the pandemic.

The legislation also provides for the following:

- Eases licensing requirements for health care professionals and emergency medical responders
- Allows pharmacists to extend prescriptions
- Expands SeniorCare to include coverage of vaccinations
- Ensures no co-pays for COVID-19 testing
- Prohibits health insurance coverage discrimination based on COVID-19
- Provides the needed flexibilities to school districts to complete the school year online
- Sets aside \$75 million to address future, unexpected needs that federal dollars don’t cover
- Requires the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to develop a plan to assist the state’s main industries (tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, forestry, construction and retail).

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration on Wednesday.

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