



Media Release

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2021

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Rep. Shankland: Statement on Assembly Session

MADISON- Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement following today's session of the Wisconsin State Assembly:

“Over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm disturbed that the Legislature has still only taken minimal actions together to respond and provide relief to our constituents. Instead, the bills that passed today would further consolidate power in the Legislature while impeding public health departments' ability to respond to the pandemic. That's why many major hospitals, health care systems, and public health departments oppose these bills, sending a clear message: this is not what we need to get through the pandemic. If we want to return to normal, we need to support our healthcare heroes' efforts -- not undermine them. We must come together to address the real problems our communities are facing.

“The Legislature had the opportunity to do something proactive and positive today when amendments were offered. From accepting the Medicaid expansion to cover 90,000 more people with affordable insurance and save \$1.6 billion in state taxpayer dollars to waiving the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits, these are widely popular ideas that would help the people of Wisconsin. I'm disappointed that the Legislature once again chose not to act on them.

“It is encouraging that more than one in four Wisconsinites have already received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and that the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths is steadily declining. A return to a sense of normalcy is within reach if we continue to follow public health guidelines. However, there's work that has to be done to ensure a strong recovery, and our elected officials need to be willing to come together to do it. I remain steadfast in my belief that we are capable of more than this, and that we owe it to our state and local communities to do better.”

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