



---

# PATRICK SNYDER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 85<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Rep. Patrick Snyder

March 23, 2021  
(608) 266-0654

## **Assembly Passes Legislation on State Response to COVID-19**

**Madison...** Today, Representative Patrick Snyder (Schofield) voted in favor of a number of bills regarding the state government's response to COVID-19. The bills included measures that would require the Governor to develop a plan for state employees to return to in-person work, prohibit the government and private employers from mandating vaccinations, prohibiting the government from closing places of worship, and requiring the Governor to submit a plan for expenditure of new federal COVID-19 funds to the Legislature. Rep. Snyder released the following statement:

“Many Wisconsinites have been working in-person with basic safety precautions for months now – to say nothing of first responders who have been in-person since day one of this pandemic. As more and more Wisconsinites get vaccinated it is time for Governor Evers to develop a plan for when state employees will return to the office.

Just as it is time to begin the process for state employees to return to work, all Wisconsinites should be guaranteed that exercising their freedom of conscience will not prevent them from employment. While I encourage all who are able to get vaccinated the fact is that some people have sincerely held religious beliefs regarding vaccinations or health conditions making vaccination dangerous. Those people should not be mandated to receive vaccination by either the government or their employer.

Just as individual freedom of conscience needs to be protected, no government official should be able to close a place of worship and restrict First Amendment rights guaranteeing freedom of worship. I am proud to vote to prevent local officials from closing places of worship.

Finally, the legislature has long held the power of the purse regarding how taxpayer funds are spent, and today's vote simply ensures that new federal COVID relief fund spending authorized by the Governor be submitted to the Legislature – just as all other state spending is handled per our Constitution.”

###*The 85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes the Cities of Wausau and Schofield; the Villages of Rothschild, Elderon, and Hatley; and the Towns of Ringle, Norrie, Weston, Bevent, Easton, Reid and Franzen.*