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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislative Republicans attempt power grab at the expense of their constituents

Madison, WI - “Today, legislative Republicans passed a bill to seize control of federal COVID-19 funding in Wisconsin. This would delay and redirect billions of dollars in critical resources away from communities that need them most, giving Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee veto power over Governor Evers’ COVID-19 response.

“This brazen power grab is sure to be vetoed by Governor Evers, making it a purely political exercise with no practical effect. They passed this bill at the same time they are refusing to even consider Governor Evers’ proposal to expand BadgerCare, freeing up \$1.6 billion in funds over the next two years for our state’s most critical priorities, while providing healthcare to 91,000 low-income Wisconsinites.

“Republicans even rejected a Democratic amendment to repeal the 1-week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance benefits, which will cost Wisconsin an additional \$2.6 million per week through September, and force out of work Wisconsinites to wait longer than necessary to receive help when they need it most.

“Today’s action is just another example of Republicans refusing to help their own constituents for no other reason than to try to make Governor Evers look bad. The fact is that Republicans in the legislature already have oversight over how we spend taxpayer dollars from Wisconsin, and by expanding BadgerCare they would have \$1.6 billion more to work with.

“That they refuse to take simple actions like ending the 1-week waiting period for Unemployment or expanding BadgerCare, policies that would bring great benefit to taxpayers, shows how little regard they have for their own constituents, and how they value power and partisanship above all else.”

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