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Federal Recovery Funds - Prioritize Families and Businesses Directly Harmed

Nass: Governor and Legislature offer plans ignoring those truly in need.

Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) issued the following statement regarding competing proposals offered by Governor Tony Evers and legislative Republicans on how to spend nearly \$3.2 billion in discretionary funding coming to Wisconsin as a result of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (the latest federal Covid-19 recovery law):

"Too many people in government, elected officials included, don't really understand just how horribly some families and businesses were financially impacted by Covid-19 and excessive government restrictions. Why? Because most people that worked for government never missed a paycheck, faced reduced wages or lacked for other benefits.

This explains why both Governor Evers and some of my colleagues in the legislature are simply wrong in how they are prioritizing use of \$3.2 billion in federal recovery funds to be spent in the coming weeks and months by state government.

There are many Wisconsin families and businesses that financially suffered in 2020 and even now in 2021 that are in need of direct assistance from the state, but under previous recovery efforts, got very little or nothing from government programs.

Today, the State of Wisconsin has nearly \$3.2 billion to assist those families and businesses to recover, if the politicians avoid using these new funds to placate special interests or as a way to fund earmarked projects in their districts.

I support using the \$3.2 billion in federal discretionary dollars to meet following two priorities:

- 1.) Direct aid to individuals, families and businesses harmed by Covid-19 and excessive government restrictions in 2020 and 2021.
- 2.) State payment of costs necessary to maintain and expand both our Covid-19 testing system and Covid-19 vaccination efforts, as well as, ongoing efforts of our healthcare systems to treat individuals infected with Covid-19."

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