



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Mark Spreitzer Introduces Healthcare Heroes Act

BELOIT – On Wednesday, State Representative Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) joined frontline healthcare workers and Rep. Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa), Rep. Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee), Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-West Point), and Sen. Melissa Agard (D-Madison) to introduce the Healthcare Heroes Act.

This bill would provide direct support to frontline healthcare workers in Wisconsin that are caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing hazard pay, paid medical leave, state-funded COVID-19 testing and treatment for uninsured healthcare workers, and insurance coverage for COVID-19 testing and treatment. The bill is funded by bringing federal tax dollars back to Wisconsin to expand BadgerCare (Medicaid), which would result in saving \$1.3 billion over the 2021-2023 biennium. The Healthcare Heroes Act is fully funded by using a portion of the savings from BadgerCare expansion.

“When the COVID-19 pandemic began, we all feared what might happen,” said Rep. Spreitzer. “It’s been nearly two years since COVID-19 was first identified in Wisconsin, and we continue to learn how devastating this pandemic can be. Healthcare Heroes work every day to protect us. We must do our part to protect them.

“We first introduced this bill in 2020 when our healthcare system was fighting COVID-19 for the first time. If the legislature had done its job then and passed this proposal, we would be in a very different place now. As we reintroduce the bill this year, we know that frontline healthcare workers are tired, stressed, and sick - but still doing all they can for us. The best time to pass this bill was in 2020. The second best time is right now.”

The Healthcare Heroes Act is being circulated for co-sponsorship to the members of the State Legislature. Legislators have until January 19th to add their name as a coauthor of the proposed legislation.

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