



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

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Stroebel: Vaccination of Teachers Grounded in Identity Politics

Madison, WI - Last week, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) revealed distribution and priority criteria for COVID-19 vaccines for teachers. Teachers as a group first became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on March 1. DHS officials told the press that districts would be ranked according to the percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches and the percentage of students of color enrolled in the district.

State Senator Duey Stroebel (R) issued the following statement upon learning that Cedarburg School District would be one of the last districts to receive vaccines:

“The first two-and-a-half months of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution have put many of the pitfalls of unchecked, government central planning on full display. The latest pitfall is the Evers administration’s arbitrary decision to rely exclusively on measures of poverty and race to determine the school districts that are being placed at the front of the line for teacher vaccination. As a result, school districts that have offered little to no in-person instruction over the past twelve months are being rewarded for placing the interests of teachers’ unions above the best interests of children and families.”

Despite receiving preferential treatment, the president of the Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association has already been quoted in the local media indicating that vaccination of MPS teachers may still not be enough for its taxpayer-funded members to agree to return to the classroom for the current school year. As the teachers’ unions scramble to prepare their next ultimatum and exercise in goalpost-shifting, Wisconsin taxpayers can rest easy knowing that teachers who may not return to the classroom for the foreseeable future are being given top priority for COVID-19 vaccination.

As has been made clear since March of last year, the pseudo-intellectual dogma undergirding identity politics is ‘the science’ that is guiding much of the decision making in government-run health care and the increasingly politicized actions of the public health establishment. The consequence of this unfortunate reality in the context of teacher vaccination in Wisconsin is that many of the school districts who have gone to great lengths to prioritize and accommodate the interests of their students are being sent to the back of the line.”

Senator Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes parts of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties.

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