



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 16, 2020

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## **WANGGAARD STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNOR EVERS STAY AT HOME ORDER**

“I have largely withheld my public criticism of Governor Evers’ ever-changing and inconsistent Stay at Home order out of respect for the office and the unprecedented time we are living in. But the greater than month-long extension of his Stay at Home Order requires that stop now.

The extension of the Stay at Home order is a symptom of a misguided one-size-fits-all approach by Governor Evers that the facts on the ground do not support. The Department of Health Services’ own data shows that COVID is a disease centered in metropolitan areas. There are large areas of individual counties and huge parts of the state with zero hospitalizations and no recent infections or spread of the disease. Hospitals and doctor’s offices are not overwhelmed – some are actually laying off staff. Yet, Evers is extending the order statewide as if we had Wuhan or New York-level infections.

The order is killing the economy, destroying people’s lives, and devastating both small and large businesses. There are thousands of actual people who will never recover from the shutdown, far in excess of those who catch COVID-19.

Worse, the inconsistency in interpreting and enforcing the Stay at Home order is mind-boggling. First, he banned drive-up church service, and then reversed course after the (correct) outrage. Then, he banned Nursing Home “window visits” for no apparent reason, reversing course only after the even faster outrage. Governor Evers closed state parks, but left county parks open. He closed boat launches arbitrarily today without any explanation. A stand-alone car wash business must close, but a gas station car wash can stay open. A small business selling plants must close, but a large retailer selling tools or food can keep selling plants. It’s maddening.

And I literally just learned from a tweet from Illinois Governor Pritzker that Wisconsin is now abdicating its decision to reopen the economy to how the disease is acting the Columbus, Detroit, Minneapolis and Chicago. It’s clear that the Governor Evers has no plan to open the state. Governor Evers needs to show leadership and announce his plans and the date-certain he will re-open the state as soon as possible. In the meantime, I will continue to work with my colleagues on a common sense evidence-based approach to restart Wisconsin’s economic engine.”

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