



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

April 15, 2020

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos
Room 217 West
Wisconsin State Capitol

Senate President Roger Roth
Room 220 South
Wisconsin State Capitol

Dear Speaker Vos and Senate President Roth:

With both the Assembly and Senate having voted on Assembly Bill (AB) 1038 this week, I am calling for this bill to be sent to my desk as soon as possible. The magnitude and the gravity of what our state is facing is significant—we cannot delay our state's response to this crisis any longer while our workers, families, businesses, and farmers suffer. There are several very time sensitive provisions in AB 1038, so it is my intention to take action as quickly as possible to ensure that Wisconsin does not lose out on millions in federal funds.

I appreciate this legislation received bipartisan support, and this bill is a step in the right direction, but I must reiterate that even in passing this legislation, there remains more work to be done. This legislation includes many of the provisions I included in my proposals to address COVID-19 in Wisconsin, but I am disappointed this bill will arrive on my desk missing critical components that would help provide necessary support for families, businesses, farmers, and communities across our state.

Among other important areas, AB 1038 fails to defray total costs of medical bills associated with COVID-19 by requiring insurers to cover all testing, treatment, prescriptions, and vaccines related to COVID-19. This bill lacks meaningful support for small businesses, farmers, and local communities who are struggling to make ends meet and includes no additional investments in our businesses or farmers through WEDC's successful 20/20 program.

Finally, and unconscionably, this bill also provides no hazard pay or workers compensation for all of the frontline and critical workers like first responders, childcare providers, and healthcare workers who are risking their lives going to work every day. Folks across our state are risking their lives going to work every day and to keep our families, neighbors, and communities safe. They deserve our gratitude, but more importantly, they deserve our support.

It is clear this legislation will need to be only the beginning, and I look forward to future legislation to aide the state's response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers
Governor

cc: Assembly Chief Clerk's Office
Senate Chief Clerk's Office