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April 10, 2020

For Immediate Release

Kooyenga Urges Gov. Evers to Expand Supply of Face Mask Materials

MADISON, Wis. – Sen. Dale Kooyenga today urged Gov. Tony Evers to expand the supply of textiles used to make homemade face masks. In a letter to the governor, Kooyenga asked that textile supply stores be included as essential businesses and allowed to remain open during this time of public health emergency.

Kooyenga wrote the letter in response to hearing that textile supply shelves are practically bare at some stores that are currently allowed to remain open.

“As you may know, thousands of Wisconsinites are chipping in their time, money, and talents by making homemade face masks for use by their fellow citizens. Their efforts help contain the spread of COVID-19 while making sure medical-grade personal protective equipment (PPE) is available to medical professionals,” Kooyenga wrote.

“Allowing businesses like Hobby Lobby, Joann Fabrics, and others across the state that sell textile supplies used in making face masks will allow these individuals to continue helping their communities, help slow the spread of the disease, and help ensure our health care heroes do not face a shortage of necessary PPE,” he continued.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [recommends](#) that people wear cloth face masks so that medical grade PPE remains available to health care professionals who need it. The CDC has even provided guidance on how to make them, guidance that many enterprising Wisconsinites have taken to heart.

In order to help our fellow citizens follow the CDC guidance, the Evers administration should allow for an immediate opening of businesses that sell these supplies. Allowing these stores to open would be a net positive to our communities’ health in this time of crisis.

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