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April 15, 2020

Contact: Gillian McBride Gillian.McBride2@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266-8570

Rep. Anderson Calls for Wisconsin to Cover Funeral Expenses of People Exposed to COVID-19 by April Election

FITCHBURG – On April 7th, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services confirmed 92 deaths, 745 hospitalizations, and at least 2,578 positive tests of the COVID-19 coronavirus in the state. On the same day, people’s lives and safety were put at risk when Wisconsin held an in-person election during an active public health emergency and stay-at-home order. In the days leading up to the election, legislative Republicans refused to postpone or to make it easier for eligible voters to cast their ballots by mail despite numerous requests by Governor Tony Evers, Wisconsin Elections Commissioners, and thousands of Wisconsinites.

In response to this travesty of democracy and public safety, Representative Jimmy Anderson is introducing legislation requiring the State of Wisconsin to cover all funeral expenses for people who die of COVID-19 and who can trace their exposure to voting or working at the polls during the April 7th election. Representative Jimmy Anderson released the following statement:

“Wisconsin Republicans failed the people of Wisconsin this past Tuesday. Their decision to do nothing in the face of a global pandemic forced people to decide between losing their right to vote or exposing themselves to a potentially deadly virus. What Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald did was cruel and it needlessly put lives at risk.

“The sad truth is not if people were infected and will pass away, but how many. While we may never know the full impact of Wisconsin Republicans’ refusal to act, we owe it to the loved ones of those who pass away to at least acknowledge the sacrifice of their family and friends. If Wisconsin Republicans found it acceptable to expose people to COVID-19, they ought to be responsible for the very real consequences of their decisions. Providing funeral expenses for those who died because of the election is the very least they can do. Literally, the very least they can do.

“I want to also say that while I am often disappointed or aggravated with the policy decisions of my Republican colleagues, rarely am I sickened. If I could mandate it, I would make sure every

member of the legislature would have to attend the funerals of each Wisconsinite we lose and explain why the election was worth the loss of a loved one.”

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