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Legislature Passes COVID-19 Relief and Response Act

Sen. Jacque thanks colleagues for passing common-sense provisions

(Madison, WI) State Senator André Jacque (R – De Pere) released the following statement after Senate passage of the COVID-19 Relief and Response Act:

***“I was pleased to vote for this important legislation that includes a number of provisions I previously authored and introduced on behalf of my constituents, including suspension of the one week waiting period for unemployment retroactive to March 12, flexibility for local government board of review and annual town meetings, public safety and corrections support by suspending hour restrictions and financial disincentives for re-hired retired officers, and remote operations for Wisconsin’s court system.*”**

***In particular, I’d like to thank my colleagues for including SB 906, the one week waiting period relief, in the COVID-19 legislative package. This is a bi-partisan bill I introduced a few weeks ago to help those who were unexpectedly impacted by being laid off in these unprecedented times. The Department of Workforce Development has announced that by their analysis our unemployment rate is now as high as 27%. Over 300,000 Wisconsin residents have filed for unemployment in just the last couple of weeks. DWD is receiving 100,000 phone calls an hour on a regular basis with as many as 160 calls a second from Wisconsin residents attempting to file for unemployment.*”**

***Those requesting unemployment assistance are our friends and neighbors. They are the backbone of Wisconsin, the people who have kept our economy moving along and will do so again. I am proud to have introduced this legislation. The fight to help Wisconsin’s economy bounce back is far from over.”*”**

Jennifer Stephany, Executive Director of Appleton Downtown Inc., further describes the economic facing Wisconsin workers and employers:

“Senator Jacque,

***Thank you for introducing the bill to suspend the one week waiting period for unemployment insurance. I wanted to share comment with you as I have heard from many small business owners who have had to lay off or furlough employees since Gov. Evers Safer at Home order. Those employees are struggling to pay their rent or health insurance and buy food. Excluding our office businesses downtown and just taking into consideration our retail, hospitality, attractions and service businesses; we have over 140 businesses within our district with doors shut and no revenue opportunity. Many of their employees are relying on unemployment insurance to survive and need access to those dollars as soon as possible. Thank you for letting me share.”*”**

The legislation passed the State Assembly on a 97-2 vote and the State Senate by a vote of 32-0, and is now headed to Gov. Evers for his signature.

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.

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