



FOR IMMEDIATE ADVISORY:
April 15, 2020

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COVID-19 Special Session: Overdue and Incomplete

(MADISON) - Today, Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement in response to the state senate convening in the Extraordinary Session

“On March 13th, I made an initial request that the Wisconsin State Legislature take up a special session to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding both the obvious and unintended consequences of policy decisions to minimize the social spread of Coronavirus, we should have met sooner. Yet, over a month later, here we stand. To say, that I am frustrated at the cavalier attitude that some of my Republican colleagues have displayed throughout this public health emergency, is the understatement of the year.

To further compound the crisis, today I and other members of the legislative body, were deliberately denied the opportunity to speak at key moments during the senate session. Representing portions of the hardest hit city and county of the state, the behavior of republican leadership was unconscionable. We have watched as they have used the Coronavirus to suppress the vote of many state residents and today, they used it to suppress the voice of some Democratic legislators.

While the elements of today’s bill were necessary, there are many holes in our response to the needs of Wisconsin residents. Republicans marginalized many of the issues that would have provided balanced resources and action to address hazard pay for essential and frontline workers equally. Small business owners, the elderly and families needing help with food or housing are left to fend for themselves. In fact, many Wisconsinites, from local governments to hospitals and healthcare facilities providing critical COVID-19, are being asked to shoulder the brunt of the state’s response. In failing to provide many of the additional public health resources, we have taken a piecemeal approach to governing. The broader question is, what is the price our state will pay for the lack of a comprehensive approach to dealing with this crisis?”