



BARBARA DITTRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
Contact: Rep. Barbara Dittrich

July 31, 2020
608-266-8551

Rep. Dittrich Responds to Evers' Mask Mandate

Oconomowoc – After receiving hundreds of contacts in response to the governor's mask mandate, Representative Barbara Dittrich (*R – Oconomowoc*) issued the following statement:

“Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, I have encouraged constituents to follow the safety protocols of frequent handwashing, physical distancing, and use of masks when appropriate. As a decades-long champion of personal medical advocacy, I trust that it is in citizens' best interest to follow these measures in the very personal context of their own health status.

“Thursday, July 30, I found myself shocked, disappointed, and disturbed that Gov. Tony Evers once again went back on his word and displayed his distrust of Wisconsinites through his mask mandate. At a time where hospitalizations and deaths as a percentage of overall cases have decreased and a highly partisan State Supreme Court Justice was just installed to the bench, I must question the motives behind governor's order. It is especially disingenuous as he had recently stated that he would not be issuing such a mandate. In addition, this week State Senator Steve Nass had further revealed a HUGE, continuing backlog in reporting of negative COVID-19 test results on the county and state levels, thus skewing the percentages being reported to an anxious public.

“My office is receiving a flood of calls and emails from individuals and small business owners who are already feeling devastated about the previous COVID-19 damage to their financial survival. Furthermore, this order will not just effect small retail but also manufacturing, machinists, and businesses with intense physical labor. Our law enforcement professionals are already overburdened, being targeted for defunding, and being hamstrung from doing their jobs. We cannot ask them to be the ‘mask police’ as well. This order is creating more division around our entire state, already resulting in calls to 911 to report the mask-less.

“I am fully supportive of individuals that wish to wear a mask in public and for businesses to require them. However, I believe health decisions lay with the individual alone.

“All of this being said, the governor owns all of the results of this order. Negative health consequences, harm to business, a continued increase in mental health and drug crises, challenges with special needs students receiving appropriate educational accommodations, and other such outcomes fall squarely at the feet of Tony Evers.”

###