



JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
Contact: Rep. James Edming

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(608) 266-7506

Rep. Edming Backs Amended COVID-19 Relief Bill

MADISON – Representative James Edming (R-Glen Flora) voted again to approve [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1](#), the next round of COVID-19 relief. The State Assembly approved an amended version of the bill that restored a number of important provisions that were removed by the State Senate prior to their approval of the bill. AB 1 as amended by the Assembly ensures access to necessary medication, COVID tests and vaccines, while limiting government overreach.

“I am proud to once again support Assembly Bill 1 that provides needed support in combating COVID-19 while also protecting our individual freedoms,” said Rep. Edming. “I believe that this legislation strikes the right balance.”

The Assembly restored some important provisions that were removed by the Senate. The bill once again prohibits employers, the Department of Health Services (DHS), and local health officers from mandating the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, the legislation once again prohibits DHS and local public health officers from closing places of worship.

“Since the Senate considered AB 1 a couple of weeks ago, one of the top concerns I have heard from constituents regarding COVID relief was ensuring that receiving the COVID vaccine was voluntary and preventing the government from closing places of worship,” said Rep. Edming. “I am pleased that these important provisions were returned to the legislation by the Assembly.”

In addition, the amended legislation will provide our state with more tools to fight COVID-19 and continues to support hospitals, build up workforce capacity, and support other areas of need. The bill also helps with vaccine administration by allowing properly trained pharmacy students and dentists to administer the vaccine. It also protects schools and businesses from certain liabilities to reduce the likelihood of frivolous lawsuits and allows access to long-term care facilities for someone designated as an “essential visitor” by a resident.

“Another important part of this legislation is ensuring access to nursing homes and assisted living facilities for essential visitors,” said Rep. Edming. “This provision is incredibly important to a number of folks I represent and I am pleased to see it remains a part of AB 1.”

AB 1 now returns to the State Senate for further consideration.

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The 87th Assembly District includes portions of Clark, Marathon, Rusk, Sawyer and Taylor Counties.