

CHRIS LARSON STATE SENATOR

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GOP continues 9-month streak of failing to deliver for Wisconsin

Madison, WI – By passing a fatally flawed COVID bill that will never become law, Wisconsin Republicans have shown once again that power and politics are their only significant concerns.

The only thing Republicans seem to agree on is that they want to obstruct progress, but haven't yet figured out how best to get away with it. We are 288 days removed from the passage of Wisconsin's one and only COVID-19 relief bill. Over half a million of our neighbors have tested positive, nearly 24,000 have been hospitalized, and over 5.700 have died.

There is no vaccine that has yet been approved for use among children, who make up more than one-fifth of Wisconsin's population, yet Republicans have seemingly put all of their faith in vaccines to get us past this crisis. They constantly criticize how slowly the vaccine has been rolled out, yet they vote for bills that prevent hospitals from requiring their employees to receive one.

They say they want businesses to be open and schools to be in-person, but against the wishes of doctors, scientists, teachers, and business leaders, they passed a resolution in the Senate to repeal the statewide mask mandate - the very thing we need in place to keep them open. Only tremendous public outcry and the prospect of losing approximately \$49 million per month in food aid to our most vulnerable citizens stopped Assembly Republicans from finishing the job.

Republicans in our legislature have shown little regard for the people who elected them, and while they pass political documents back and forth that will never see the light of day, our neighbors suffer, and wonder why their elected officials won't do anything to help them.