

January 26, 2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Senator Eric Wimberger

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STATEMENT ON VOTE TO END EVERS' UNCONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

MADISON—Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay), issued the following statement after voting for Senate Joint Resolution 3, canceling Governor Evers' fifth declaration of emergency, and ending his unconstitutional statewide mask mandate:

"Governor Evers has exceeded his constitutional authority for months. There is a distinct difference between leadership in a crisis, and the reactionary, disjointed response we have seen from the executive branch. Today's vote was necessary to restore the balance of power to the Legislature, the people's elected representatives.

"State law is very clear. The Governor has the power to declare a state of emergency for only 60 days. Having declared five separate emergencies, Governor Evers exceeded his power and openly ignored a State Supreme Court decision. I value our democratic republic, and unconstitutional government dictates leveraged by fear need to end.

"This vote does not mean that COVID has passed. It does not mean that I, or any other legislators who voted for it, do not take COVID seriously. Businesses and local governments are free to mandate masks in their locations, and take any mitigation measures they find appropriate. It does not hamstring state government's ability to deal with the crisis. State law provides plenty of avenues for agencies to educate and protect the public without using emergency powers. Our citizens deserve to be treated as adults, who are capable of measuring risks, making their own decisions, and dealing with the consequences of their actions."