



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Agard Responds to Senator Kapenga's Healthcare Comments

MADISON - Last week, Senator Chris Kapenga (R - Delafield) released a statement calling on healthcare workers to protest vaccine mandates from various healthcare systems.

Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released this statement in response:

"The statement made by my colleague is reckless. We have a duty as elected officials to hold ourselves to a higher standard and do what is best for the betterment of all Wisconsinites. The statement he released does not honor that - quite frankly, his statement was embarrassing.

"Our healthcare worker shortage is not due to vaccine requirements. It is due to the policies passed by our GOP controlled legislature that have made frontline career opportunities less attractive and more dangerous. Our healthcare heroes have had to deal with a once in a lifetime pandemic while worrying about the safety of their friends and loved ones. They held hands of those who could not see family, helped facilitate goodbyes, and so much more than what is asked of them. Wisconsin needs to step up for them and make sure we are using every tool in the toolbox to stop the continued spread of COVID-19 - which includes getting vaccinated if you are able to.

"With cases rising again in Wisconsin, statements like the one made by Senator Kapenga are dangerous. Rising case numbers, new variants, and advocacy groups calling out the low vaccination rates of healthcare staff, we need to be encouraging folks to get the vaccine, not setting our communities up for disaster. We cannot risk losing more Wisconsin lives. We need to do this together, for each other."

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