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Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 12:39 PM

To: Robert Mielke <Robert.Mielke@ci.wausau.wi.us>

Subject: [BULK] A Message from Governor Tony Evers and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes on COVID-19 Relief

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the people of Wisconsin, I hope that this email finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes and I want to assure you that our administration is working around the clock to respond to the current public health emergency. Your questions and concerns are important to us, and we want to be as transparent as possible during this challenging time.

We would like to provide an update on the legislative package our administration has announced to provide critical investments in health services and relief for Wisconsin families and businesses. About a month ago, our team began meeting daily with the leaders of both parties in the legislature and, a few weeks ago, we proposed two legislative bills that would provide immediate, substantial relief to Wisconsinites. Among many other forms of relief, these bills would:

- Eliminate the one week waiting period for receiving unemployment benefits and provide state-funded back pay for any lost benefits resulting from the delay in suspending the waiting period;
- Prohibit disconnection of utilities from a rental unit during a public health emergency;
- Protect against evictions and foreclosures during a public health emergency;
- Expand the Emergency Assistance program during the public health emergency for families in need who are facing homelessness;
- Provide funding for local governments and health departments to ensure they are able to respond to this crisis and maintain public services;
- Increase funding for the Wisconsin Works Program to assist individuals who want to work but are unemployed due to the public health emergency (individuals may be eligible for benefits under Wisconsin Works even if they aren't eligible for unemployment benefits);
- Increase funding for Wisconsin food banks to ensure Wisconsinites' basic needs are met;
- Allow waiver of penalties or interest on late tax payments;
- Expand access, support, and services for child care workers and centers;
- Grow the funds available for WEDC's programs to provide economic relief to small businesses;
- Allow out-of-state and recently lapsed licensed health professionals in good standing the ability to practice during the public health emergency;
- Provide an additional \$20 million in broadband expansion grants to increase internet access for the health, agriculture, and education sectors;
- Increase funding for Medicaid providers to support the healthcare system's response to the public health emergency; and
- Require that telehealth services are covered by insurance as in-person services normally would.

For a more comprehensive list of our administration's legislative package, please visit this [web page](#).

As Governor, I will continue to work to ensure folks get the help they need to get through this health crisis, but the legislature needs to step up to the plate and pass the legislation needed to get these relief programs up and running. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask them to immediately take up the bills we first announced weeks ago.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact our administration. It is in times like these that we find what unites us as Wisconsinites—a shared concern for our communities, a commitment to helping the most vulnerable among us, and the goal of working towards a healthier, brighter tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices again if you have questions or require assistance.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers  
Governor

Sincerely,

Mandela Barnes  
Lieutenant Governor