

RE: Calling on Wisconsin State Legislature to work with Governor Evers to control COVID 19

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 global pandemic has caused significant health and economic impacts in our community, county, state, nation and worldwide. To date, the State of Wisconsin has experienced 566,871 total cases, 6,481 total deaths and continues to experience a very high disease activity level on a statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, In Jackson County, we will soon be approaching the one-year mark of the declared Public Health Emergency due to the COVID 19 pandemic. To date, Jackson County has had 2,600 total cases, 28 deaths and continues to deal with a very high level of disease activity; and

WHEREAS, our dedicated Public Health team continues their important work to prevent the spread of COVID 19 by promoting proven mitigation strategies such as masking, social distance and hand washing. They are working in close collaboration with our local, state and federal partners to protect our community through the distribution and administration of the COVID 19 vaccine, but that effort will take many more months to provide the level of vaccination required to reach herd immunity; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the lack of a clear statewide plan developed by infection disease specialists to help control the spread of the COVID 19 virus and supported by all three branches of Wisconsin government has led to confusion, unnecessary deaths and increased economic loss in our state; and

WHEREAS, Recently, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a resolution ending the COVID 19 Public Health Emergency declared by Governor Evers, despite opposition from over 50 organizations, including Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin, WI Academy of Family Physicians, WI Association of Local Health Depts & Boards, WI Hospital Association and the Wisconsin Medical Society. If Governor Evers had not promptly issued a new Public Health Emergency, this action by the Legislature would have eliminated the statewide mask mandate that had been implemented as one of the key, science-based mitigation strategies proven effective in slowing the spread of this deadly disease. The Legislature's action imperils the health and well-being of our residents and fellow Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS, with evidence of new, more virulent variants of COVID 19 present in Wisconsin, the importance of statewide measures, such as mandatory masking, to help protect the health and well-being of our family, friends and co-workers has never been greater. It is incumbent upon all elected officials, at every level, to take responsibility for recognizing the importance of putting partisan politics aside in the interest of public health and uniting in the global battle against the worst pandemic in a century.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors calls on the Wisconsin Legislature to listen to the dozens of Wisconsin health care organizations and support the Governor's new Public Health Emergency declaration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board of Supervisors once again calls on the Wisconsin State Legislature to work in concert with Governor Evers to pass legislation establishing consistent, science-based and enforceable statewide measures for controlling the COVID 19 pandemic in Wisconsin and expediting our economic and educational recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association, State Senators and State Representatives representing Jackson County and the State of Wisconsin Governor.

Executive & Finance Committee

Greg Baneorn
Wynne Star
Howe Tolpelt
Jeff Hancock
Ron Carney byes

I HEREBY CERTIFY

RESOLUTION # 24-03-2021

WAS ADOPTED ON 3/15/2021
BY JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Cindy Altman
CINDY ALTMAN, JACKSON COUNTY CLERK

YES 16 NO 0

2 absent