

February 4, 2021

Dear Senator Johnson:

We urge you to support a coronavirus relief package based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan to help struggling families, communities, schools, and local businesses as soon as possible.

Wisconsin and our country are suffering from one of the worst health and economic catastrophes ever. There have been nearly 450,000 deaths, and millions of Americans have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the pandemic. As you know, Wisconsin has seen more than half a million of our residents diagnosed with COVID-19 and taken the lives of more than 6,000 of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

The U.S. economy lost more than 22 million jobs at the pandemic's height last year, including more than 10,000 jobs here in Wisconsin. One in seven adults says their households don't have enough to eat. There is also an escalating housing crisis, and many people are struggling to pay rent or their mortgage. Women and people of color continue to bear the brunt of the health and economic crises.

We must act quickly and boldly to get our country and state back on track. We are urging your support of President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan as a starting point for Congress to put together a robust economic recovery package. The plan includes \$600 billion to support public services, including \$350 billion in flexible aid to state and local governments, education funding, public transit funding, increased unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, direct cash payments, and eradicating the virus by providing funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccine distribution, and PPE. Frontline workers like nurses, teachers, EMS, child care providers, and others continued working throughout the pandemic to keep communities safe and healthy. Flexible, direct aid is now needed to avoid deep cuts in vital public services and more layoffs that we face due to budget shortfalls at the state and local levels.

Now is not the time to withhold or restrict needed spending. Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans who are suffering and to stimulate our economic recovery. Robust, unrestricted aid is critical to quickly distributing the vaccine, preventing our children from falling behind, reopening shuttered businesses, and eliminating cuts to essential public services that will prolong the health and economic crisis.

Please support this budget resolution with reconciliation instructions that will help get our country through this dire crisis.

Sincerely,



A Better Wisconsin Together
 AFT-Wisconsin
 Blue Sky Waukesha
 For Our Future Wisconsin
 Opportunity Wisconsin
 Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin
 SEIU Wisconsin State Council
 Wisconsin Education Association Council
 Wisconsin Working Families Party
 Voces de la Frontera

AFSCME Council 32
 Black Leaders Organizing for Communities
 Committee to Protect Medicare
 Leaders Igniting Transformation
 Our Wisconsin Revolution
 Protect Our Care - Wisconsin
 WI AFL-CIO
 Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance
 WISDOM