

Re: letter from Vos Fitzgerald - 03.28.20

Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>

Sat 3/28/2020 7:17 PM

To: Rep.Vos - LEGIS <Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Fitzgerald, Scott - LEGIS <Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Pennoyer, Kara - GOV <kara.pennoyer1@wisconsin.gov>; Romportl, Dan - LEGIS <Dan.Romportl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Toftness, Jenny - LEGIS <Jenny.Toftness@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Speaker Vos and Majority Leader Fitzgerald,

Thank you for your letter. I must express my disappointment that instead of working together to address COVID-19 in Wisconsin, it seems you are more interested in having political squabbles that are not focusing on the actual fight—saving lives and working to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in our state.

While I recognize that neither of you were interested in convening the legislature because you preferred to wait on the federal government, our administration and our state do not share your patience in responding to the COVID-19 crisis that has already taken the lives of 13 Wisconsinites in our state. Unfortunately, the federal government's efforts to date have yet to provide all of the necessary resources that Wisconsin needs, and to compound these federal shortcomings, there are reports of state acquired supplies and equipment being diverted by the federal government to other states outside of our region. Thus, contrary to the assertions in your letter early today, and as I've mentioned during our briefing calls, our administration and our state have not been waiting to take action on acquiring supplies.

I understand you have been unable to participate in many of the daily briefings that I—and senior members of our office and administration—have provided as a courtesy to your offices, so it's possible this information was not relayed to you. On many of these calls, I have provided frequent updates on our efforts to acquire PPE and other essential supplies, and repeatedly underscored the Department of Administration's need to procure equipment, supplies, and services to ensure the safety and health of the people of our state and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As of today, the Department has purchased approximately \$7.46 million in needed medical and public health supplies. We continue to use state and regional consortiums to actively procure an additional \$400 million in supplies, personnel, and facilities. As of March 26th, the state has received about 104,680 N95 respirators, 260,840 face/surgical masks, 48,168 face shields, 40,512 surgical gowns, 192 coveralls, and 70,375 pairs of gloves from the SNS. The state has also officially requested PPE supplies for first responders from FEMA. After hearing from FEMA that our request for supplies was moved down on the priority list, we have been working with federal partners to secure the requested supplies. Our administration has also created a donation and buyback program to acquire more PPE for healthcare workers, first responders, and other non-medical organizations to distribute to communities that need it the most.

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation, so understandably, it's possible you might have missed this information when it was provided in our daily briefing call, reported on in the press, discussed in the daily DHS briefings, or via the background document our office has provided regularly to the entire legislature.

Nevertheless, while ideally the Wisconsin legislature would act to provide the necessary resources, the Department is using its broad statutory authorities under Chapters 16 and 20, Wis. Stats., to expedite our purchasing efforts and ensure Wisconsin has the necessary resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We simply will not wait for the Wisconsin legislature or the Trump Administration to act. Too many Wisconsin lives are at stake.

We continue to be ready and willing to work with legislative leaders to pass legislation quickly to ensure our state has the resources to respond to and prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. As always, I look forward to providing you with an update on our efforts tomorrow at 11:30. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions in the meantime.

Best,

Maggie

From: Romportl, Dan - LEGIS <Dan.Romportl@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Pennoyer, Kara - GOV <kara.pennoyer1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: letter from Vos Fitzgerald - 03.28.20

Maggie / Kara,

Please see the attached letter from Senator Fitzgerald and Speaker Vos.

Thank you,

Dan Romportl
Chief of Staff
Senator Scott Fitzgerald
Senate Majority Leader
13th Senate District