



Taking Action to Support Wisconsin Small Businesses during the Coronavirus Outbreak

Updated Friday, March 20, 2020

Senator Baldwin is committed to providing Wisconsin small businesses hurt by COVID-19 with robust federal support during the coronavirus outbreak. She recognizes that small businesses will lose revenue and face workforce challenges due to COVID-19 and is taking action in the Senate to provide additional aid to help them get through this crisis.

Legislation and Policy Changes Enacted

Senator Baldwin **supported and worked to pass a bipartisan emergency supplemental funding agreement** to respond to the coronavirus. The \$7.8 billion package, plus a \$500 million authorization to enhance telehealth services, provides nearly \$1 billion directly to state, local and tribal governments to support surveillance, testing, infection control and other public health preparedness and response activities. The agreement also included \$1 billion in loan subsidies to be made available through the Small Business Administration to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture producers, and nonprofit organizations which have been impacted by financial losses as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The State of Wisconsin applied to make Wisconsin businesses eligible for this funding on March 18.

Senator Baldwin is focused on taking action to support Wisconsin families, workers and small businesses. She **supported and worked to pass the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act***, which includes free coronavirus testing for every Wisconsinite who needs a test, including the uninsured, and emergency paid family leave, including financial support for small and medium-sized businesses to cover the cost of the emergency paid sick leave their workers need. The bill also includes expansion of unemployment benefits with emergency grants to states, increased federal funding to states for nutrition assistance and food security programs, and more federal funds for Medicaid. *Action Date: This legislation passed the Senate on March 18.*

Senator Baldwin urged the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to **provide significant flexibility on the tax filing season deadline** for taxpayers, including working families, individuals and businesses. Individuals and businesses will now have until **July 15** to file, as well as to pay the IRS if they owe additional income tax for 2019. Individuals and small businesses will be able to defer most payments without incurring interest or penalties. *Action Date: March 11*

Pending Legislation

Full and Quick Reimbursement for Paid Leave – Senator Baldwin helped introduce the *Providing Americans Insured Days of Leave Act* to provide financial support, fully funded by the federal government, to employers for all paid sick days and paid leave so they can provide it to workers. This bill will fully and quickly reimburse employers for all paid sick days and paid leave in 2020 and 2021. In order to ensure that businesses do not need to wait for tax credits, the bill will only require employers to provide documentation to the Department of Labor (DOL) to demonstrate they paid out sick days or leave in order to receive reimbursement. *Action Date: March 18*

Economic Stimulus for Wisconsin Workers and Small Businesses – Senator Baldwin supports an economic stimulus response that is targeted toward helping workers and small businesses get through this crisis. She believes that we need strong economic stimulus legislation that focuses direct aid to small businesses and she has proposed a plan to provide a \$2,000 immediate cash payment to every adult, child (or non-child dependent), and recipient of Social Security, Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The proposal calls for additional cash payments should the public health crisis extend, or if the unemployment rate increases. The payments would phase-out for higher-income taxpayers. This new proposal would build on her support for providing comprehensive economic relief to Americans and businesses during this unprecedented public health and economic crisis and ensure that families have cash to meet their expenses, which will also help businesses hurting from lack of demand. *Action Date: March 18*

Additional Legislative Actions

Making Sure Wisconsin Employees and Students Have Affordable Internet Access – At Senator Baldwin's request, CEOs of the major internet service providers took steps to help ensure Americans have reliable access to online services during the outbreak of COVID-19, including service upgrades, waiving fees, free access to Wi-Fi hotspots, more affordable plans, free support services, and more. *Action Date: March 14*

Supporting our Rural Communities – Senator Baldwin urged the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to use their available resources and expertise in disaster response in rural areas to address the unique needs of rural communities as they deal with the impacts of COVID-19. *Action Date: March 16*

Read more about Senator Baldwin's leadership to support Wisconsin small businesses during the coronavirus outbreak by visiting www.baldwin.senate.gov or following the Senator on twitter.com/SenatorBaldwin and facebook.com/senatortammybaldwin



Coronavirus Information and Resources for Wisconsin Small Businesses

Coronavirus Testing in Wisconsin:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02592.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/> or call 800-232-4636

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/> or call 608-266-1865

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development:

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/> or call 608-266-3131

Includes frequently asked questions for employers and employees regarding Wisconsin unemployment benefits

Small Business Administration (SBA):

<https://www.sba.gov/coronavirus> or call the Wisconsin District Office at 414-297-3941

The SBA will provide loans up to \$2 million under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program for businesses injured by the crisis to make payroll, pay rent, provide sick leave, and meet any other operating costs. *Note: Governor Evers submitted a formal request to the SBA on March 18 for funding under this program and it is expected applications from Wisconsin businesses will begin to be accepted shortly*

For additional loan information visit: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC):

<https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/small-business-2020/> or call 608-210-6700

WEDC has developed the Small Business 20/20 program to support small businesses and micro-enterprises adversely economically impacted by COVID-19.

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