

October 8, 2020

## **IBAW Calls On Governor Evers to Rescind Emergency Order #3, Limiting Indoor Capacity**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

The Independent Business Association of Wisconsin calls on Governor Tony Evers' Administration to immediately rescind Emergency Order #3 due to its impact on small businesses in Wisconsin and the workers who depend on these businesses for their livelihoods. The Administration provided no statistical or scientific data to indicate how restricting capacity at a limited scope of private businesses, such as restaurants, bars and other public indoor venues to 25% will accomplish the order's stated goal of slowing a "dangerous spike" in COVID-19 positive tests in Wisconsin.

While there is no data to suggest this order will reduce future cases of COVID-19, its impact will undoubtedly inflict irreparable harm on affected Wisconsin businesses and workers. According to Kristine Hillmer of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, for example, 37-percent of restaurants were expected to close within six months, but now she expects half of restaurants will go out of business if there's no additional help.

While greatly restricting liberties of Wisconsin citizens and businesses in the name of slowing the spread of COVID-19, not a single restrictive mandate has accomplished its stated goal in the timeframes set forth by the Administration. Rather than slowing the spread of COVID-19, if practical experience is any guide, this most recent punitive government overreach will serve only to inflict harm on the people of Wisconsin by jeopardizing the future of many small businesses and the livelihoods of those who work in them.

On July 29, 2020, the Administration issued a statewide mask mandate scheduled to last 60 days with the goal of slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. On September 22, 2020, the Administration extended the mandate citing that the *"exponential growth [of COVID-19 cases] is being driven by new factors not present before, primarily the significant increase in spread due to the beginning of the K-12 and collegiate school years, which all began on or about September 1, and the unprecedented number of infections among 18-24 year-olds."* Not only did the mask mandate fail in its effort to slow the spread of the virus, Emergency Order #3 specifically *excludes* schools and colleges from the 25% capacity restriction, even though the areas of greatest viral spread are among youth in the "K-12 and collegiate school years" as stated in the mask mandate extension. While IBAW does not endorse restricting capacity at any Wisconsin institutions, the stated rationale advanced in Emergency Order #3 as to its necessity shows this administration's COVID-19 mitigation efforts are unnecessarily targeting small businesses.

If the Administration is unwilling to reverse this punitive and arbitrary order, the IBAW calls on the legislature to provide a remedy to Wisconsin families that depend on these important businesses.

For questions or additional information, contact the IBAW at [IBAWOffice@gmail.com](mailto:IBAWOffice@gmail.com) or call 262-844-0333.

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