



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

February 28, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing 2019 Assembly Bill 806 in its entirety.

The bill would expand eligibility for placement in the serious juvenile offender program to include all offenses that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a Class G felony or higher.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to increasing the number of youths that could be placed in the serious juvenile offender program when science informs us that a punitive disposition system leads to worse outcomes. As I have said, what's best for our kids is what's best for our state, and it is vital that our efforts in reforming our criminal justice system recognize that our kids are worth much more than the worst decision they ever made. In addition, the Legislature has chosen not to provide the necessary funding for facilities to replace the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake schools. A youth offender has the greatest opportunity to redeem themselves and be rehabilitated only when the appropriate investment is made in programs and facilities that enable success.

Respectively submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor