December 3, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 591 in its entirety.

This bill would mandate a physician to orally inform a patient of certain information if the patient considering or planning to have an abortion induced by a drug regimen that includes mifepristone, and requires written materials provided to a patient considering an abortion to include certain information. The bill creates additional information to be reported by the hospital, clinic, or other facility to the Department of Health Services, including the patient's reason for seeking abortion, the number of the patient's previous induced abortions, and identifying information about the abortion location.

Physicians take an oath to provide patients with medically accurate information so patients can make informed decisions about their health and healthcare. I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to mandating physicians to effectively defy that oath by providing patients medical information that is not ethical or evidence-based and is inaccurate and misleading. Healthcare providers should be trusted to provide medically appropriate and accurate information, treatment, and care for their patients without the unnecessary and political interference of politicians. Further, this bill requires reporting of additional invasive patient information and adds the name of the hospital, clinic, or facility where an abortion was induced to the list of data to be published by the Department of Health Services. This creates needless concern for patient safety and privacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers Governor