

Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

April 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 831 in its entirety.

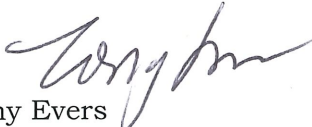
This bill would require the Governor to allocate \$1,000,000 of federal funds awarded to Wisconsin from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for a marketing campaign designed to recruit and retain law enforcement officers, including the recruitment of out-of-state law enforcement officers from communities in other states that have sought to reduce funding for law enforcement.

My administration and I have, thankfully, not waited for Legislative direction to begin this important work. Last fall, I announced my administration would be making a \$45 million investment in ensuring safer communities through violence prevention and support for crime victims. Additionally, I recently announced more than \$50 million into efforts to address reckless driving, support evidence-based crime prevention strategies, and alleviate justice system backlogs.

To date, I have been proud to invest more than \$100 million into violence and crime prevention and efforts to promote public safety in communities across our state. Among that \$100 million includes a program to invest nearly \$19 million into providing funding to local and tribal law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin. This will enable these public safety agencies to address the unique needs facing their communities, including training, recruitment bonuses, community policing needs, and technology investments. The determination of an agency's amount is a formula based on the population served and includes a violent crime add-on for locations where violent crime exceeds the statewide average. Additionally, among that \$100 million investment was also \$1 million for the Wisconsin Technical College System to establish part-time police academies to help address our state's public safety workforce challenges. These investments also do not include the \$130 million I have directed toward finding innovative, long-term, and community-based solutions to addressing our state's longstanding challenges retaining and bringing talented workers.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature's effort to limit the state's ability to use federal funds and because my administration has been using ARPA federal aid to invest in violence prevention and crime prevention and community safety efforts. In Wisconsin, it is the role of the Governor to oversee the use of federal funds under Section 16.54 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, which is established, has been in place for decades, and was reaffirmed by legislative leadership in a letter sent to me in April 2020.

Respectfully submitted,


Tony Evers
Governor