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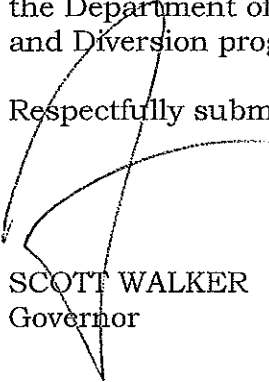
TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I have approved Assembly Bill 657 as 2015 Wisconsin Act 388 and have deposited it in the Office of the Secretary of State. I have exercised the partial veto on Section 4.

Assembly Bill 657 would create a new alternatives to prosecution and incarceration for persons who use alcohol or other drugs; grants appropriation in the Department of Justice. Funds placed in the appropriation would be used for making grants to counties under the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program. The bill would also add a requirement that a program funded by a Treatment Alternatives and Diversion grant cannot prohibit a person from participating in the program due to the use of a medication that has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to treat substance abuse. While I fully support the intent of the bill, I am eliminating one provision of it.

The bill requires the Department of Administration, when establishing base funding for the 2017-19 biennial budget, to increase the base funding for the alternatives to prosecution and incarceration for persons who use alcohol or other drugs; presentencing assessments appropriation by \$2,000,000 GPR. I am exercising the partial veto to strike Section 4, in order to remove this mandatory increase in base funding for the 2017-19 biennial budget. While I support the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program, I object to this provision, as it mandates a biennial budget component, thereby contravening the statutory role of the executive in presenting budget recommendations to the Legislature. Additionally, it should also be noted that the Department of Justice has, in recent years, lapsed unspent Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program funds.

Respectfully submitted,


SCOTT WALKER
Governor