

## GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 23, 2021

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 24** in its entirety.

This bill, as amended, would prohibit local health officers from taking any action to close or forbid gatherings in places of worship to control outbreaks and epidemics of the 2019 novel coronavirus or any variant or virus derived as a mutation of the 2019 novel coronavirus. The bill would also specify that the statutory language shall not be construed to confer any authority on a local health officer to close or restrict capacity in places of worship or any other entities.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the provisions of the bill that would take away existing tools available to state and local public health officials to prevent and suppress COVID-19. As I said in my **Assembly Bill 1** veto message, our response to this pandemic should be about following the science and public health experts, not finding ways to make it harder to fight it. It should be about working together to save as many lives as we can.

I remain committed to doing everything I can to keep Wisconsinites healthy and safe, following the science and advice of public health experts, and putting people first.

Respectfully submitted,  
*TONY EVERS*  
Governor