

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 8, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 777** in its entirety.

This bill would require the Governor to allocate \$10,000,000 of federal funds awarded to Wisconsin from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to political subdivisions for costs associated with policing. Any grant program would have to be approved by a legislative committee, which would also have the authority to modify it.

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.

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 also because my administration has already been using federal aid to invest in violence prevention and crime prevention and community safety efforts, including supporting costs associated with public safety efforts. Additionally, in Wisconsin, it remains the role of the Governor to oversee the use of federal funds under Section 16.54 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, which has been established and reaffirmed on several occasions.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor