April 23, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 23 in its entirety.

This bill, as amended, would prohibit the Department of Health Services from requiring individuals to receive a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and any variant or mutation of the SARSCoV-2 coronavirus. The bill would also prohibit local health officers from requiring individuals to receive a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and any variant or mutation of the SARSCoV-2 coronavirus.

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 during a declared public health emergency. As I said in my Assembly Bill 1 veto message and will reiterate again today, our response to this pandemic should be about following the science and public health experts and working together to save as many lives as we can, not finding ways to make it harder to fight this virus or keep Wisconsinites safe.

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