



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

April 27, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE:

Today, I am signing Senate Bill 11, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 29, to provide our firefighters and law enforcement officers support for mental injuries suffered on the job. These professions are routinely exposed to stresses and critical incidents far exceeding average and the post-traumatic stress brought on by these exposures has long term, negative effects on these public servants and their families. This legislation eases the process of obtaining critically needed mental health care for these suffering workers by providing an alternative to the "greater dimensions" test for mental injuries to our public safety professionals and recognizing that the mental injuries experienced in these professions can be cumulative in nature. The 32 weeks of treatment provided under this legislation will help our public safety workers get back to the jobs they love and the communities they serve.

This legislation will also have the effect of making it easier for Wisconsin businesses to work with a professional employment organization while also maintaining a relationship with their worker's compensation insurance carriers and agents who, in Wisconsin, are often small, locally-owned businesses themselves.

Wisconsin's worker's compensation system is nationally known for its efficiency and stability and its advisory council has been a national model for how to address worker's compensation policy changes. I am pleased to see that the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council supported the post-traumatic stress changes as well as the additional law changes which were included in this legislation. However, in the future, I hope and expect that the next Worker's Compensation agreed upon bill will reach my desk in its complete form.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tony Evers  
Governor