



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 597 in its entirety.

This bill would allow an individual licensed to carry a concealed weapon to possess a firearm in a place of worship that is located on the same grounds as a private school.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to creating another exception to the gun-free school zone law. Wisconsin's gun-free school zone law passed with strong bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Thompson in 1991. Wisconsinites desperately want their elected leaders to take action to find common-sense solutions that both respect and uphold rights and ensure our schools, our streets, and our communities are safe. To that end, I have been proud to invest more than \$100 million into violence and crime prevention and efforts to support local and tribal public safety agencies.

By contrast, this bill neither improves public safety nor addresses gun violence in our state by allowing for an increased presence of firearms—including loaded firearms—on school grounds. This could only further endanger our kids and make our schools less safe.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tony Evers  
Governor