



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 15, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 409 in its entirety.

This bill would prohibit providing instruction in any course to students at the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System that includes any one of several concepts listed in the bill. Additionally, this bill punishes any institution or technical college found to be in violation of this bill by requiring the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and the Technical College System Board to withhold five percent of that institution or college's state aid allocation. Further, the bill would create a private legal enforcement action, allowing individuals to sue for violations of the bill, and would require a court to award attorney fees among other forms of relief.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to creating new censorship rules that restrict educators and higher education institutions from teaching honest, complete facts about important historical topics like the Civil War and civil rights. I continue to trust parents, students, educators, and our higher education institutions to work together to do what is best for our students without political interference and micromanagement from politicians in Madison. I also object to the Legislature's continued efforts to politicize our higher education institutions, sow division on our campuses, and micromanage the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Technical College Systems. The Legislature must stop using our kids and our students as political pawns. Educators should be able to teach honest, complete facts, and our students deserve to learn in an atmosphere conducive to learning without the Legislature's unnecessary, politically motivated encroachment and censorship.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tony Evers  
Governor