



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 20, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 146 in its entirety.

This bill would make it a Class H felony for a person to change their name based on certain previous convictions.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to creating barriers for people reintegrating into the community, which does not improve public safety or reduce recidivism. In the 21st Century, Wisconsin should be taking an evidence-based, data-driven approach to corrections and justice reform—this can help make our communities safer and reduce the likelihood that someone might reoffend when they are released. For example, my 2025-27 biennial budget proposed evidence-based policies that would lower some of these barriers. These included "banning the box," expanding the availability of expungement, and expanding the earned release program to include educational, vocational, treatment, or other qualifying training programs. Unfortunately, these proposals and over 600 others were removed by the Joint Committee on Finance during its first executive session of the budget process.

I am disappointed that the Legislature would focus its attention on proposals that do little to improve this landscape when there are serious and urgent needs facing our correctional institutions and our criminal justice system, including aging facilities and a soaring prison population that Wisconsin's correctional institutions cannot continue to accommodate. Over one year ago now, I announced a comprehensive corrections reform plan, including some of the most significant facility and capital changes in Department of Corrections history.

Once again, I urge the Legislature to meaningfully consider supporting evidence-based solutions that respect and protect victims and survivors, reduce recidivism and improve community safety, bolster our justice system workforce, and ensure our communities have the resources they need to invest in public safety services across Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor