



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 20, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 652 in its entirety.

This bill would effectively change references to “minority” students in certain programs administered by the University of Wisconsin System, Wisconsin Technical College System, and Higher Educational Aids Board, respectively, and require those programs to be provided to be “disadvantaged” students instead.

Under current law, some of these programs provide aid to both minority and disadvantaged students, while others provide aid to minority students only. Programs covered by the bill include the Minority Teacher Loan Program, Minority Undergraduate Grants, the Ben R. Lawton Minority Undergraduate Grant Program, graduate student financial aid, minority and disadvantaged student recruitment and retention plans and programs, and minority student participation and retention grants. In addition, the bill repeals the requirement that the Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University School of Dentistry, both of which receive state funding, make efforts to ensure that at least five percent of total enrollment consists of minority students.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Wisconsin State Legislature creating new censorship rules that are designed to police language on our higher education campuses and ultimately prevent our state’s higher education institutions from acknowledging students come to our college campuses with unique and diverse backgrounds, experiences, and needs.

I am further vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature’s ongoing efforts to undermine our higher education governing boards by inserting itself into the daily decision making on Wisconsin’s higher education campuses. I object to the Legislature infringing upon our higher educational boards’ authorities, respectively, to manage our state’s respective higher education institutions as they see fit, including continuing their dedication to ensuring students have the support and resources they need to be successful, regardless of their background. The boards governing our state’s higher educational institutions are not an extension of any branch of government or political party. To the contrary, these boards have long been entrusted with the independence and autonomy to not only make the decisions that are best for our students and our campuses but to protect the institutions that have defined our state for generations. Our higher education governing boards must continue to be able to do so without political interference from the Legislature.

To the extent our higher educational institutions must comply with new or different laws or court rulings applicable to them, I am confident our higher education governing boards and our



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campuses are capable of doing so without the benefit of unsolicited advice from Republican lawmakers and their right-wing allies.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers
Governor