



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 20, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 672 in its entirety.

This bill would address what it describes as “transnational repression” in several ways. As used in the bill, “transnational repression” is generally defined as an action taken by a person acting as an agent of, or on behalf of, a foreign government or foreign terrorist organization with the intent to harass or otherwise impose the government or organization's control, preferences, viewpoints or laws upon a dissident, exile, activist, journalist, political opponent, member of a minority group, or citizen of another country due to their political view.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety for several reasons. First, I object to the Wisconsin State Legislature passing legislation relating to foreign affairs and international relations, which is customarily and rightfully a federal responsibility. Under the U.S. Constitution, the federal government is recognized as having the primary authority to manage the nation's foreign relations. While the state and its police powers may occasionally have a role in responding to what the bill describes as transnational repression, state lawmakers are not ideally positioned to try and navigate complex relationships with foreign countries and likely lack the experience and support to meaningfully understand the geopolitical consequences of policymaking decisions. As one example, to date, proposals made during the current 119th Congress have focused on developing training and identifying and using existing law enforcement tools to combat transnational repression, rather than creating new ones, as this bill would.

I am also vetoing this bill because I object to creating compounding criminal penalties for conduct that is already generally prohibited under current law. For instance, harassment, stalking, and making certain threats are already crimes. Further, the current penalty enhancer under s. 939.645, known as the hate crimes penalty enhancer, would also likely apply in the situations that are described in the bill.

Finally, I am further vetoing this bill because I object to the Wisconsin State Legislature’s continued efforts to create new programs or mandates for state agencies without providing meaningful or adequate resources for implementation. This bill is just the most recent example of those efforts, which imposes several duties on the Department of Justice. The department would be required to develop a training program, best practices, and a public awareness campaign related to transnational repression. It would have to create a digital portal to report suspected cases of transnational repression, maintain a list of countries or foreign terrorist organizations who perpetuate transnational repression, and submit an annual report to the Legislature. Despite these mandates and the department's fiscal estimate outlining the bill's costs, the bill does not provide the department with any resources or funding to carry out these additional responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tony Evers  
Governor

Office of the Governor • 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

(608) 266 – 1212 • <https://evers.wi.gov>