



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 27, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 610 in its entirety.

This bill would create a penalty enhancer applicable to persons convicted of delivery or distribution, or possession with intent to deliver or distribute, certain controlled substances in a shelter, on the premises of one, or within 1,000 feet of such premises.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to the Wisconsin State Legislature continuing to take an archaic and outdated approach to the criminal justice system, which has long been proven not to meaningfully improve public safety or reduce recidivism.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. I am disappointed the Legislature continues to 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.

To address the intersecting issues of substance use disorders and housing, multiple policy avenues may need to be pursued. To be the most effective and prudent, these policies should be evidence-based, data-driven, and any use of criminal penalties should be carefully and thoughtfully considered. In other words, the solutions must "connect the dots," and this proposal fails to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor