



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 27, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 432 in its entirety.

Under current law, local law enforcement and child welfare agencies have key autonomy and discretion to work together to respond to and meet local community needs and develop their own procedures and protocols for how they will respond in a variety of different circumstances in which they are contacting a kid and their family. This bill would require a child welfare department to refer every report of threatened or suspected abuse to local law enforcement authorities, drastically expanding current law, which requires reporting only in cases of threatened or suspected sexual abuse or trafficking. According to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, based on recent years of data, this bill could potentially triple the number of allegations that would be provided to local law enforcement agencies across our state.

While I understand and sympathize with the intentions of this bill, I am vetoing it in its entirety because I object to legislation that could ultimately make it harder for local law enforcement and local child welfare agencies to keep our kids and communities safe. Abusing or neglecting kids is never acceptable. Period. Unfortunately, it happens all too often, and child welfare and law enforcement agencies frequently must respond and ensure kids are safe, supported, and protected. This bill, however, takes a sweeping approach to these allegations, which could ultimately "result in increased workloads for both local child welfare and local law enforcement agencies, straining the capacity of both systems in their efforts to protect kids and communities," as the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families testified this bill would do in the public hearing. Doing so will have the inadvertent and presumably unintentional consequence of potentially making it even harder for law enforcement and child welfare agencies to respond to abuse when it happens.

I welcome the opportunity to enact legislation that can help better support kids who are subject to abuse and neglect and bolstering the reporting processes while also ensuring our law enforcement and child welfare systems have the resources they need to adequately respond.

Respectfully submitted,


Tony Evers
Governor