

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

December 6, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 465** in its entirety.

This bill would prohibit, with limited exceptions, healthcare providers from engaging in, causing the engagement in, or making referrals for certain medical intervention practices upon an individual under 18 years of age for the purpose of changing the minor's body to correspond to a sex that is discordant with the minor's biological sex. In addition, the bill would require the Board of Nursing, the Medical Examining Board and the Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board to investigate any allegation that any person licensed or certified by the respective boards has violated any of the prohibitions described in the bill. Finally, the bill would require the Board of Nursing, the Medical Examining Board, and the Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board to revoke the license or certification of any provider that is found to have violated any of the prohibitions described in the bill.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to restricting physicians from providing evidence-based and medically appropriate care to their patients, restricting parents from making decisions with physicians to ensure their kids receive the healthcare they need, and preventing patients from receiving that basic, life-saving care.

Healthcare providers should be trusted to provide medically appropriate and accurate information, treatment, and care for their patients without the unnecessary political interference of politicians. Gender-affirming care is recognized by most major medical associations as the evidence-based treatment for transgender and gender-nonconforming youth with gender dysphoria. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have all stated that gender-affirming care saves lives.

Further, and especially important to me personally, I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature's ongoing efforts to manufacture and perpetuate false, hateful, and discriminatory anti-LGBTQ policies and rhetoric in our state. This type of legislation, and the rhetoric beget by pursuing it, harms LGBTQ people and kids' mental health, emboldens anti-LGBTQ hate and violence, and threatens the safety and dignity of LGBTQ Wisconsinites. I will veto any bill that makes Wisconsin a less safe, less inclusive, and less

welcoming place for LGBTQ people and kids. I support LGBTQ Wisconsinites, and I will continue to do everything in my power to defend them, protect their rights, and keep them safe.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor