



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 12, 2004

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 508 in its entirety. The bill provides that employees who provide companionship services are exempt from state laws regarding overtime pay. In addition, Senate Bill 508 adopts the federal definition of companionship services. Under current law, when an employee of a commercial enterprise that provides in-home companionship services works more than 40 hours in a given week, the business must pay the employee an hourly wage equal to 1.5 times the regular rate for each hour over 40.

I am vetoing Senate Bill 508 in its entirety because the definition of companionship services included in the bill is so broad that the exemptions provided may be subject to misapplication and misuse. By downgrading the pay status of the companionship services occupation at a time when the demand for home care workers is increasing, Senate Bill 508 will lead to a less professional and less stable home care workforce. I also object to singling out one category of home-related personal service for separate treatment under the state's overtime law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doyle".

JIM DOYLE
Governor