

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 22, 2021

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 236** in its entirety.

This bill requires the Governor to direct \$150 million from the moneys received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for the Department of Health Services to distribute to nursing homes and assisted living facilities that apply for a onetime payment. To receive a payment, the nursing home or assisted living facility must ensure that no less than 50 percent of the payment provides bonuses to employees subject to limitations that ARPA has on payments to individuals. Further, payments to nursing homes and assisted living facilities may be used for purposes including capital projects and for assisting with integration into the statewide health information exchange system.

I object to this bill and am vetoing it because it limits the ability to use federal funds with the flexibility necessary to confront the variety of challenges posed by recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic and respond to Wisconsin's changing needs over the course of the pandemic and our recovery. In Wisconsin, the role of the Governor to oversee use of federal funds under Section 16.54 of the Wisconsin Statutes is clearly established and has been in place for decades, a fact that was confirmed by legislative leadership in a letter they sent to me in April 2020.

In lieu of this bill, I will continue to utilize the authority provided to the Governor under Section 16.54 of the Wisconsin Statutes to oversee use of federal funds and will allocate these funds in a manner that is transparent and consistent with both Wisconsin's needs and federal law.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor