



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

June 22, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE:

I am signing Senate Bills 121, 122, 123, and 124, now 2021 Wisconsin Acts 48, 49, 50, and 51:

- Senate Bill 121 prohibits the use of chokeholds by law enforcement officers in use of force policies;
- Senate Bill 122 requires public access to policies regarding the use of force by law enforcement;
- Senate Bill 123 requires the Wisconsin Department of Justice to collect data and publish an annual report on use-of-force incidents; and
- Senate Bill 124 establishes a \$600,000 grant program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, for cities with a population of 60,000 or more to fund community-oriented policing-house programs.

These bills are part of a package of bipartisan policing changes and are only a step toward making meaningful progress for a more just, more equitable, and safer state for everyone. While racism and racial disparities cannot be solved with any single bill or package of bills or person alone, we can and must do more. Although I am signing these bills, I have and will continue to urge the Legislature to take more meaningful action and send additional comprehensive legislation to my desk. The people of Wisconsin are demanding systemic change and reform in our state. They must be heard. And that means there is much more work left to do.

More than a year ago now, Lieutenant Governor Barnes and I announced a package of legislation aimed at increasing policing accountability and transparency. Months later, in August 2020 and in the wake of Jacob Blake being shot in Kenosha, I called a special session to take up the package of legislation. The Wisconsin State Legislature quietly gavelled out of the special session late last year without taking any action.

In addition to calling for action on the August 2020 Special Session on Policing Accountability and Transparency legislation, I also urge the Legislature to take action on several additional police accountability and transparency reforms that have been introduced or drafted but have not yet received any consideration in the Legislature despite ample opportunity. This includes bills from the "Enough is Enough" package, as well as bills drafted and not introduced by the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities.

There is no excuse for these four bills being the only bills that get to my desk. Today is not the end, it has to be the beginning.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers  
Governor