



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

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TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am signing Assembly Bill 374 because it will help bring much-needed funds to communities throughout Wisconsin to address the opioid pandemic through a settlement with opioid manufactures and distributors. These funds will be used on opioid abatement and mitigation efforts. In signing this bill, I hope to ensure that the maximum amount of available dollars available from a settlement makes it to Wisconsin communities as soon as possible.

While I am signing this bill, I am deeply troubled by several provisions of the bill. In particular, Section 2 of the bill unconstitutionally gives the legislature authority to approve any settlement the executive branch reaches with the opioid manufactures and distributors, violating our constitution's separation of powers doctrine. Not only is this provision unconstitutional, but it also needlessly delays the ability of the State to get these funds to communities as quickly as possible by requiring approval by the Joint Committee on Finance and creating uncertainty as to whether the settlement will be approved expeditiously or at all.

Despite these serious concerns, I am not willing to risk our ability to maximize the amount of settlement dollars available to Wisconsin by vetoing this bill in its entirety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor