Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

February 4, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 411 in its entirety.

This bill would prohibit school districts and independent, publicly-funded charter schools from providing instruction on a wide variety of subjects centered around race and sex discrimination. The bill would also prohibit school boards and charter school operators from requiring school staff to attend training on providing instruction on these topics. Additionally, under the bill, the Department of Public Instruction would be required to withhold 10 percent of a district's state aid distribution if they determine the school is providing instruction or training on these topics. Further, the bill would create a private legal enforcement action, allowing individuals to sue a district or school for alleged violations of the bill.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to creating new censorship rules that restrict schools and educators from teaching honest, complete facts about important historical topics like the Civil War and civil rights. I have said before and will restate again today that I trust parents, educators, and schools to work together to do what is best for our kids—work they have long been doing without the political interference and micromanagement from politicians in Madison. Our kids deserve to learn in an atmosphere conducive to learning without being subjected to state legislative encroachment that is neither needed nor warranted. Moreover, we have worked hard to provide increased support for our kids and our schools after a decade's worth of cuts to education. This work has helped our state return to having the 8th best pre-K-12 education system in the country after dropping to 17th in 2017. There is no question that the aid we are providing our schools is much better spent on our kids learning in our classrooms than on the onslaught of attorney fees, lawsuits, and legal bills that could befall them because of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor