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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Senator André Jacque

SEN. JACQUE: EVERS' DENIES ELECTION INTEGRITY PROTECTIONS RECOMMENDED BY NONPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

Governor's veto stops protections from coercion of elderly and vulnerable populations, requirement to report fraud, and other common sense measures

MADISON, WI... Wisconsin's elections remain vulnerable to fraud, coercion, incomplete absentee ballots and conflicted poll workers due to Gov. Evers' veto yesterday of legislation authored by Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere) and Rep. David Maxey (R-New Berlin).

Sen. Jacque said Evers' veto also risks a repeat of 2020, when special voting deputies were denied entry into residential care facilities, effectively disenfranchising legal voters who lived there.

"It's shameful that the Governor won't protect the legal voting rights of our senior citizens and other vulnerable individuals," Sen Jacque said.

Sen. Jacque said the vetoed bill (<u>Assembly Bill 570</u>) was an attempt to codify recommendations arising from a review of voting procedures conducted by the nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. It would have required reporting of fraud by election officials aware of it, prohibited coercion of elderly and disabled residents by election officials, and disallowed individuals with a conflict of interest from performing election roles in direct conflict with their outside political employment.

"Questions about the integrity of our elections have resulted from uneven interpretations of state election law," Sen. Jacque said. "Given the recent radical Dane County Circuit Court decision allowing anything on an absentee ballot to be sufficient and the Governor's unwillingness to sign AB 570 to rectify it, those concerns are growing louder than ever," Sen. Jacque said.

"Free, fair and honest elections are the bedrock of representative government," Sen. Jacque said. "Voters who participate in our elections have a right to expect their vote to not be diluted due to inconsistent administration of procedures applied to different groups of voters, or by official actions made or dictated by special interests. This veto by Governor Evers is a massive mistake."

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie Counties.