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GOVERNOR VETOES BILLS PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

Action puts freedoms to worship and make personal medical decisions at risk

MADISON, WI...Constitutionally-protected freedoms to make personal medical decisions and worship as we choose remain at risk in Wisconsin after Gov. Evers today vetoed legislation that would have restrained government officials “emergency” pandemic powers.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), author of the measures, said the Governor’s actions call into question how committed he truly is to safeguarding these fundamental liberties.

“These two initiatives help prevent government officials from using Covid-19 as an excuse to grab power at the expense of our liberties,” Sen. Jacque said. “A successful virus response requires communication and trust, not heavy-handed big government mandates.”

Respect for vaccination decision-making ([Assembly Bill 23](#)/[Senate Bill 4](#))

Sen. Jacque introduced this legislation to ensure Public Health Officers and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) cannot require vaccination or require a person to show proof of vaccination for Covid-19.

“Gov. Evers’ administration has publicly stated that they have no plans to mandate the vaccine,” Sen. Jacque said. “But when given the opportunity to sign this bill and make that pledge state law, he reversed course. As we have seen before, the Evers administration has been all too willing to take actions they had only recently claimed they did not even have the interest or ability to do.”

Freedom of Worship ([Assembly Bill 24](#)/[Senate Bill 7](#))

While facilities like liquor stores and abortion clinics were previously allowed to operate by public health departments as “essential businesses,” churches and other places of worship were harassed and shut down.

“The Governor’s veto of this bill shows how he has been all too eager to target people of faith for harsher restrictions throughout the pandemic,” Sen. Jacque said. “I cannot understand how he can deny this basic right at a time when people have sought the comfort of worship more than ever.”

Public polling has shown that Americans oppose forced vaccination.

“The Governor likes to say that the will of the people is the law of the land,” Sen. Jacque said. “Unfortunately, he has once again proved that statement only applies if it agrees with his ideological motives.”

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.