



WISCONSIN CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL, INC.

Promoting Fairness and Equity in Wisconsin's Civil Justice System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 13, 2021

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Wisconsin Civil Justice Council Pleaded Legislature and Governor Agree: Businesses, Schools Need Liability Protection

Both Assembly Speaker Vos's bill and the bill agreed to by Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu and Governor Evers shield Wisconsin businesses, schools, universities, and other entities from the threat of predatory lawsuits alleging liability for COVID-19 exposures, an invisible virus spreading throughout our communities. Such protections would only apply to those who take adequate precautions to keep their premises safe.

The Wisconsin Civil Justice Council is a group of 15 business associations that work together in the State Capitol to enact civil liability reforms. "The Wisconsin Civil Justice Council is pleased the Governor and both legislative leaders agree that Wisconsin businesses, schools, and non-profits that 'do the right thing' to protect their workers and the public should be protected from predatory lawsuits. We supported Speaker Vos's original proposal and we support the compromise agreed to by Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu and Governor Evers," said Wisconsin Civil Justice Council executive director R.J. Pirlot.

Business owners, large and small, worry they may become victims of lawsuits even as they struggle with the financial challenges, regulatory burdens, and economic uncertainty associated with rebuilding their businesses. "I urge the Governor, the Assembly Speaker, and Senate Majority Leader to get this done, and get these important liability protections signed into law," said Bill G. Smith, NFIB's State Director in Wisconsin and the president of the Wisconsin Civil Justice Council.

According to Scott Manley, executive vice president of government relations of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and vice president of the Wisconsin Civil Justice Council, "As we have previously testified publicly, WMC also strongly supports the liability protections originally included in AB 1, and we appreciate the important work done by the State Assembly to elevate the importance of protecting Wisconsinites from predatory lawsuits at a time when they can least afford it. We are confident that the amended language, although slightly different than the original language of the bill, will also achieve an incredibly high level of protection from costly and opportunistic lawsuits."

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