



WISCONSIN CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL, INC.

Promoting Fairness and Equity in Wisconsin's Civil Justice System

Officers & Members

President – Bill G. Smith
*National Federation of
Independent Business*

Vice President -
Scott Manley
*Wisconsin Manufacturers
and Commerce*

Treasurer -
Andrew Franken
*Wisconsin Insurance
Alliance*

Secretary - Brad Boycks
*Wisconsin Builders
Association*

John Mielke
*Associated Builders
& Contractors*

Gary Manke
*Midwest Equipment
Dealers Association*

Jason Culotta
*Midwest Food Products
Association*

William Sepic
*Wisconsin Automobile &
Truck Dealers
Association*

John Holevoet
*Wisconsin Dairy Business
Association*

Brian Doudna
*Wisconsin Economic
Development Association*

Eric Borgerding
*Wisconsin Hospital
Association*

Mark Grapentine
*Wisconsin Medical
Society*

Neal Kedzie
*Wisconsin Motor
Carriers Association*

Matthew Hauser
*Wisconsin Petroleum
Marketers &
Convenience Store
Association*

Kristine Hillmer
*Wisconsin Restaurant
Association*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 25, 2021

CONTACT:

R.J. Pirlot
Pirlot@hamilton-consulting.com

Businesses, Schools Get Needed Liability Protection

Thank You, Gov. Evers & Legislative Leaders

2021 Wisconsin Act 4, bipartisan legislation signed into law today by Gov. Evers, protects Wisconsin businesses, schools, universities, and other entities from the threat of predatory lawsuits alleging liability for COVID-19 exposures. Such protections would *only* apply to those who take adequate precautions to keep their premises safe. SB 1 passed the state Senate on a bipartisan vote of 27-3 and was concurred in by the state Assembly on a bipartisan vote of 89-0.

The Wisconsin Civil Justice Council is a group of 15 business associations that work together in the State Capitol to enact civil liability reforms. “On behalf of the broad coalition of businesses we represent, we’d like to thank Gov. Evers for signing SB 1 into law. Businesses, schools, and non-profits that ‘do the right thing’ to safeguard their workers and the public will be protected from predatory lawsuits,” said Wisconsin Civil Justice Council executive director R.J. Pirlot.

Act 4 will help business owners, large and small, as they struggle with the financial challenges, regulatory burdens, and economic uncertainty associated with rebuilding their businesses. “Thanks to Gov. Evers, Senate President Kapenga, Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu, Assembly Speaker Vos, and Representative Born, small businesses are getting a needed level of certainty and Act 4 will help ensure they are comfortable reopening and staying open.” 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, “WMC also strongly supported the liability protections in SB 1. We are happy to see legislative leaders, of both parties, working with the governor to protect Wisconsinites from predatory lawsuits at a time when businesses and schools can least afford it.”

-end-