amending of the charge is approved by the court. The bill would further require the court to notify the Legislature if the court approves the dismissal or amending of a charge of illegally possessing a firearm.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to restricting the discretion of prosecutors and judges to address the alleged violation before them. I also object because the bill restricts the availability of deferred prosecution programs. As I have said, we need to be smarter on crime. Evidence suggests that diversion programs, including deferred prosecution programs, are more cost-effective and have better outcomes than traditional incarceration. I further object because the bill would create an administratively burdensome reporting requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

TONY EVERS
Governor of Wisconsin

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing 2019 Assembly Bill 809 in its entirety.

This bill further limits who is eligible to participate in prison early release programs and who is eligible for early discharge from probation.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to further restricting the Department of Corrections’ discretion to determine who is eligible for certain early release programs and who is a good candidate for early discharge from probation. The Department of Corrections has an important role to play in working to improve public safety while also providing opportunities for meaningful rehabilitation. That includes identifying when people have paid their debt to society for prior actions and ensuring fair and compassionate decisions are made when they are able to safely return to our communities. We should be coming up with ways to reduce prison populations and incentivize rehabilitation, not the other way around.

Respectfully submitted,

TONY EVERS
Governor of Wisconsin

COMMUNICATIONS

February 28, 2020