



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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## **Statement on Governor Evers' Signing of Bipartisan Police Improvement Bills**

“Accountability, community involvement and transparency are the cornerstones of any civic organization, and the PACT bills signed by Governor Evers today reflect those principles. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues, including Senators Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), and Representative John Spiros (R-Marshfield), to introduce these bipartisan bills to improve policing in Wisconsin.”

“It is curious, however, that rather than celebrate the Republicans and Democrats coming to agreement on these bills, Governor Evers signed these bills in private with no notice. Instead, he puts out a statement complaining that he didn’t get everything he wanted and advocating for ideas that make every man, woman and child, regardless of race, less safe. For someone who claims he wants Republicans and Democrats to work together to improve Wisconsin, he once again shows otherwise.”

*Earlier today, Governor Evers signed the following bills:*

- *Senate Bill 121 - Prohibiting the authorization of chokeholds in a use of force policy except in cases of self-defense or life-threatening situations (2021 WI Act 48)*
- *Senate Bill 122 - Requiring police departments to allow online access to Use of Force Policies (2021 WI Act 49)*
- *Senate Bill 123 – Requiring law enforcement entities to report Use of Force incidents, and for the Wisconsin Department of Justice to publish an annual report about such incidents (2021 WI Act 50)*
- *Senate Bill 124 – Creating a Community-Oriented Police (COP) House grant program (2021 WI Act 51)*

*The bills were part of a bipartisan package of seven bills unveiled last year by Senators Wanggaard, Taylor and Darling known as the “PACT.” “PACT” is an acronym standing for Police Accountability, Community Involvement and Transparency. The remaining bills are expected to pass the Assembly in the coming weeks.*

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