



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 26, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 567, which duplicates requirements passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Illegal immigrants are not eligible for government programs. Under the provisions of the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, applicants for Medicaid programs will be required to provide documentation of both citizenship and identification. The state is required to follow that law. I am vetoing this bill because it will create unnecessary confusion with federal law set to go into effect on July 1, 2006 – and because it could deny needed services to many eligible American citizens.

Duplicative requirements could create confusion, added costs, and additional hassles that could mean that many U.S. citizens would be denied services they need and for which they are eligible. A senior citizen without access to a birth certificate might be denied needed prescriptions. A homeless Vietnam veteran might not have the documents he needs to get food stamps. We should make sure that illegal immigrants do not illegally gain access to these services, but we should not do anything that would prevent American citizens from getting the help they need.

Sincerely,

JIM DOYLE
Governor