



May 21, 2024

Dear Contest Judges,

I am happy to nominate Madison College student Kai Brito for Associated Collegiate Press two-year school reporter of the year. Kai joined The Clarion staff as an occasional writer in the 2023 spring semester and then served as a copy editor this past school year. Despite the role change, he continued to write multiple articles for every issue and was the top reporter on our staff.

As you will see from his resume, Kai has multiple interests. He is an accounting major at the college but is passionate about sustainability and public policy. The first article he wrote for The Clarion was an article questioning why the college uses legal names on student IDs rather than preferred names. Rather than just focus on the policy, he chose to focus on the impact of the policy and highlighted the experiences of two transgender students who spoke about the emotional toll of being outted in class and by their student IDs. His approach helped readers understand why the policy could be problematic for some students.

Kai's strengths are his inquisitive nature, the way he networks with others on campus and the fact that he's not afraid to challenge those in power. He always asks others to explain why something is the way it is, and sometimes those in power are taken aback by his boldness. But what they learn is that he's not trying to be a pest, he's asking questions to make sure he fully understands a decision or policy and the reasons behind it. He's unafraid to approach others and seems to pick up a story idea from virtually everyone he visits with, and he constantly helps other reporters on staff find sources and make connections.

His interest in public policy led Kai to join the Student Senate during this past school year, and as a result his reporting responsibilities with The Clarion shifted to more feature writing and less news reporting. The portfolio of work he shares from this past school year includes a feature story about a student who forges her own armor and participates in historical martial arts events, an article about the college's motorcycle certification courses, two students testifying at the state capitol about how a pair of bills would impact transgender students and an in-depth news story investigating why cafeteria prices increased so much.

Kai has been a tremendous asset for our team. I hope you enjoy reviewing his work.

Thanks for your consideration,

Doug Kirchberg
Clarion advisor
Madison Area Technical College

Kai Brito

Accounting, Sustainability & Public Policy ♦ Madison, WI ♦ (608) 572-5887 ♦ kbrito1@madisoncollege.edu

WORK EXPERIENCE

PORCHLIGHT, INC.

Accounting & Finance Intern

March 2024 – Present

- Verifying nonprofit donation records using Donor Perfect, logging entries into Microsoft Great Plains system, and reconciling against bank statements for regular A/R contribution accounting and tracking.
- Maintain detailed financial records of photocopied receipts in digital archive organizational system.

STUDENT LIFE & CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

CLARION NEWSPAPER

Copy Editor

August 2023 – Present

- Provide copy editing and fact-checking for reporters, while also writing 24 news, opinion and feature articles.
- Collaborated with Editorial Board to write joint statement on news organization funding for the student body.
- Won 2nd Place for Arts & Entertainment Reporting at the 2024 Wisconsin Newspaper Association Contest.

MADISON COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE

President

May 2023 – Present

- Wrote and implemented the Three-Year Plan, manage the Student Senate Finance Committee & Student Activities Board budgets, and oversee the internal operations of the Student Senate on Executive Council.
- Drafted and passed bill to restructure Student Activity Fee and secure budget funding for all student organizations, then successfully led marketing campaign which resulted in a 90.7% YES vote for referendum.
- Researched DEI policies to draft Inclusion & Belonging Coordinator position that was added in Fall 2023 and wrote seven resolutions advocating for identity-based groups to promote campus inclusivity and belonging.
- Coordinated event planning to host regional student government meeting at the Goodman South campus and secured Wisconsin Representative Francesca Hong and her Chief of Staff Nada Elmikashfi as keynote speakers.

WISCONSIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

President

May 2023 – Present

- Advocate for increased funding to Wisconsin Grants and Open Educational Resources to increase affordability, reduce the cost of attendance and identify potential cost-saving measures within the system.
- Selected to co-lead a session with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College at the 2023 Wisconsin Conference on Race and Ethnicity titled “What’s in a Deadname? Creating an Inclusive Campus for Queer Students”
- Review the checking account and bank records with Resource Director and provide forecasting advice on the state of our organizational finances, which will lead to the implementation of a High-Yield Savings Account.

EDUCATION

MADISON COLLEGE

expected May 2025

Associates Degree, Accounting

GPA: 3.76/4.00, *Dean’s List Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024*

Awards & Honors

Business Professionals of America – Took 2nd Place for Podcast Production at National Leadership Conference.

Center for Accounting Diversity – Selected as one of 18 participants regionally for the Two-Year Bridge Symposium hosted by Deloitte to immerse students in the accounting field and explain the CPA Exam process.

arts

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A



KAI BRITO / CLARION

Madison College student Joan Keizer crafts armor that gets put to the test in Historical European Martial Arts events.

Forging a living manuscript

Historical knighthood is resurging in Wisconsin

KAI BRITO
Copy Editor

Not every college student can say that they own a set of self-forged plate armor, but Joan Keizer can shoulder that honor. Over the summer, about once a month on Saturday mornings, she dons her metal suit and engages in battle with other armor enthusiasts around Wisconsin.

Keizer is a Liberal Arts transfer student at Madison College. She is a student of history, spending her free time reading manuscripts from the Middle Ages.

She strives to find a balance between being a responsible scholar of the past and putting that knowledge to practice in the modern era.

Like many young children, she had what she calls a “knight phase,” where she developed a fascination with the fashion and armor styles of ironclad warriors. She pursued that interest, crafting her first armor piece by the time she was in middle school. Since then, she has forged sallets (helmets), breastplates, longswords, and various other knightly equipment.

When Keizer constructs armor or weapon pieces, she is very mindful that she is dealing with past artifacts. She does her due diligence to research historical techniques to corroborate her design ideas and achieve a result that more closely models the past.

“Between practicing those techniques, using the same tools, and using a rule set that puts the same



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOAN KEIZER

Armor, such as this helmet, is crafted to closely replicate items worn in the Middle Ages.

pressures on us, then we can get closer to what [knights] might have done historically,” Keizer said. “That’s the idea at least, to replicate as closely as we can with the knowledge that we’ll probably never get to a satisfactory point,” she continued.

But Keizer does not just construct pieces to display. That armor gets put to the test in multi-combatant team Historical European Martial Art skirmishes, otherwise known as HEMA.

HEMA events are organized armored-combat skirmishes that can include fighting as teams in

both free-form and pre-arranged battles, as well as traditional one-vs-one duels. The events are hosted across South Central and Southeast Wisconsin, sometimes even in Keizer’s own backyard.

These large-scale battles operate under the “Keizerburg Rule System,” a modular rules system devised by Keizer that determines the rules of engagement on the battlefield.

Each weapon and armor class receives a rating of “Heavy,” “Medium” or “Light” and those rating classes should be used against a matching class or below.

For example, using a Light Weapon class dagger against a Heavy Armor class Plate Mail would not be a wise decision. But using a Medium Weapon class polearm against a Medium Armor class leather padding would be a fair match up.

Keizer is a versatile arms user but tends to gravitate towards weapon classes like longswords or rapiers that lend themselves to a little more finesse. However, when it comes to armor types, she is often sporting a full set of Heavy armor plate mail with parts forged directly from her workshop.

Keizer attests to the safety that heavy armor offers for combatants. She emphasizes that safety is a main priority for all participants and that they are engaging in friendly duels to put historical knowledge into practice.

“Ultimately, we’re all friends here, so at the end of each fight we hug each other and make sure everyone is okay,” Keizer affirmed. “At the end of the day, we just want to play, and we can’t play if we break each other,” she said.

The next scheduled HEMA skirmish is called “Keizerburg,” and is set for Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, at 10 a.m. The event will be hosted at 2098 County Road K, Monroe, WI 53566.

[Read this article online](#)

Riding the open roads

College hosts a community of motorcycle enthusiasts

KAI BRITO
Copy Editor

From as early as April and as late as October, students and community members alike can sign up for a motorcycle safety Basic Motorcycle Rider Course at Madison College. The course is co-taught by Lauranne Bailey and Jason Herheim, certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

The course prepares students to get a Class M motorcycle license via WisDOT. Taking the course is required to obtain the license, along with passing a road test.

Madison College Accounting program student Jade Baker completed both of those tasks in October 2022, receiving her motorcycle license so she could get out on the open road.

A family legacy of motorcycle riders

Motorcycles have played a significant role in Baker's life since her parents are both bikers. The earliest documented photo of her was when she was nine months old and the first time she ever rode on a motorcycle was at six years old.

After Baker acquired her license, Baker purchased her 500-pound beauty "Iris," a 1994 Honda Shadow VLX cruising motorcycle (or "cruiser") with a 600cc engine. Though some others refer to her bike as "Baby Beep Beep" for two reasons: 1) her mom has a Honda cruiser which would make hers the baby version and 2) the horn sounds off a two-part "beep beep" when pressed.

The bike cost about \$600 to purchase and about \$1,400 for engine maintenance, for a total price tag of about \$2,000. Additionally, she bought safety gear such as a three-quarters face or full faced helmet, eye protection fingered gloves, body protection, a jacket to cover the arms, and boots, which could run someone around \$300-\$500 depending on the quality of the helmet.

But after she got all the required safety equipment, Baker was ready to ride. She says being on the open road gives her the "freedom of wind therapy" to invigorate her life. She tries to ride her bike as much as she can, especially in the late summer and early fall when the weather offers the most relaxing rides on Wisconsin back roads.

"It feels like nothing else in the world matters, like you're in your own little world and can forget about all your struggles," Baker described. "A lot of the times when I'm riding, I don't have a destination. I literally just set out and turn when I feel like turning."

Mechanical design and the art of motorcycle maintenance

For Steve Reyes, motorcycle ownership became an opportunity for some practical



KAI BRITO / CLARION

Madison College student Jade Baker is all geared up to ride through Wisconsin's backroads on her trusty ride "Iris."

application of his engineering studies. He moved from La Crosse to Madison just this year and began the Engineering Liberal Arts Transfer program at Madison College.

Initially, Reyes was aiming to live out his childhood dreams of finally being independent and riding his own motorcycle. But on a more practical level he saw a motorcycle as a cheap way to get back on wheels without breaking the bank.

He got his first bike, a Kawasaki Ninja 250R, about seven years ago, but that didn't last long when he slipped on an icy railroad track and totaled it. His second bike was an upgraded Kawasaki Ninja 300 which lasted him much longer, and now he plans to do his own maintenance on his 1982 Honda GL500 Silver Wing, which he plans on modding into a café racer. His current bike cost him just over \$1,000 for the bike along with registration fees and he is prepared to sink more money in to make the necessary modifications.

"This bike is different because now I can build it into something completely new," Reyes proclaimed. "These project bikes tend to be not just bikes that you ride around for fun, but like a means of creative expression."

Reyes said that his Introduction to Engineering class taught by Madison College Professor John Grade helped solidify the fundamental theory behind electrical engines. In that class, one of the

projects was to dissect an eggbeater, which he learned was essentially just an electric motor bolted to a clip-on egg whisk. From that experience, he gained the confidence to learn more about the starter motor in the bike and begin his own basic bike maintenance.

Grade strives to provide students with hands-on experience working directly on issues that they would encounter in a work environment. In fact, the course is co-taught with Madison College instructor Jon Christian, who owns and operates an automotive repair shop.

"Probably the clearest way that we engage students with real-world applications is by having student teams work together to design and fabricate prototype solutions that solve actual industrial challenges faced by local companies," Grade said.

And Grade affirmed the excitement and engagement that Reyes has for the creative design projects he has planned for the semester. Overall, Reyes says he feels more equipped to solve any issues that come up with his bike because he knows he has the tools to figure it out on his own.

"Schooling day one made me equipped to actually solve any problems with my motorcycle," Reyes stated. "Now I'm going to completely disassemble it and get it up and running perfectly so I can build that racer."

Motorcyclists must always be alert

Sometimes Reyes feels wary about riding his motorcycle along with the standard traffic. He intimately understands the potential dangers of winding up in an accident as a motorcyclist.

Before he moved to Madison, he was visiting the area and almost got hit by a woman in a minivan, who narrowly swerved to avoid him as he was driving up a hill. And Reyes had previously totaled his bicycle during the winter from a mere inconveniently placed ice patch near a railroad track.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, from 2012-2021 there have been 51,384 motorcycle fatalities with 5,932 occurring in 2021. Wisconsin ranks as the 6th most dangerous state for motorcyclists with 922 fatalities involving motorcyclists.

Crashes are just as likely to happen

RIDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

during daytime as nighttime, more crashes happen during the summer (37%), mostly males perish in crashes (91%) and most of the fatal crashes occurred between the age groups 21-59.

Similar to Reyes, Baker also agrees that general traffic doesn't pay enough respect to motorcyclists. But she also cautions motorcycle riders to avoid flashy maneuvers in traffic because they are often riskier and can lead to dangerous, and sometimes even fatal, outcomes.

"This might be an unpopular opinion, but people on motorcycles need to take their own safety into account

as well," Baker elaborated. "There just needs to be a lot more safety in general when it comes to motorcycles that way everyone stays safe, and we can focus on enjoying the ride."

And perhaps the number of fatalities and general danger vibe of motorcycles lend credit to the culture of superstition within the biker community. For example, a commonly held belief amongst bikers is that of the guardian bell, or spirit bell, to ward off evil spirits. Baker actually has a bell attached to her frame, which gives her good luck as she travels on the open roads. But even without a bell, her defensive driving techniques and high level of caution will keep her safe as a Wisconsin motorcyclist.

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEVE REYES

Steve Reyes takes a summer ride out on Grandad Bluff in LaCrosse, Wis.

» SEE RIDING PAGE 4

The financial struggle of rising food prices

KAI BRITO
Staff Writer

As summer ends, school activities pick up and students spark life back into the campus hallways. But when Madison College student, Truman Way came back to Truax for a quick bite to eat, he ended up paying more than he expected.

Effective Aug. 1, all dining services and cafeteria prices increased to keep up with the pace of inflation. For Way, that sticker shock is yet another price increase that he must take into consideration when budgeting for the upcoming school year.

Like many students at Madison College, Way is a part-time commuter working towards a Liberal Arts Transfer degree. He is invested in student life as General Manager of Clarion Broadcasting and the Vice President of Nerds of the Round Table.

Because of his campus commitments, he is often found in the Truax Building during the school day, so he relies on the cafeteria for convenient access to his meals.

"When you're on campus and you're hungry, you're not going to go drive down to Kwik Trip for food. It's just much more convenient and efficient to eat (at Madison College)," Way said.

Although, that convenience now comes at a higher price, prompting students like Way to consider the cost of buying lunch while on campus.

The cost of inflation affects everyone

When Madison College Administration decided to increase the cafeteria prices, they considered many factors, chiefly citing the rising cost of inflation. The overall price increase of some of the common food items is under a dollar, at \$0.87, a 21.7% increase from last year's prices.

The increases are also not standard across the board, but rather a strategic price increase for each food item in response to the rising cost of materials.

This is only the second time in the last five years that prices have been increased in the cafeteria. The last time being in August of 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions were lifting and the cafeteria opened back up. Historically, Dining Services has a longtime trend of being

Food Item	2022-23 price	20223-24 price	Price increase
Big breakfast	\$4.49	\$5.99	\$1.50
Eggs (per scoop)	\$0.99	\$1.49	\$0.50
Breakfast potatoes -side	\$1.69	\$1.69	\$0.00
Extra breakfast meat (1)	\$1.29	\$1.99	\$0.70
Egg & cheese breakfast sandwich	\$2.99	\$3.49	\$0.50
Egg, cheese & meat breakfast sandwich	\$3.29	\$4.49	\$1.20
Breakfast burrito	\$4.29	\$5.49	\$1.20
Lunch entree	\$5.99	\$6.99	\$1.00
Hamburger	\$2.69	\$3.49	\$0.80
Cheeseburger	\$2.99	\$3.99	\$1.00
Bacon cheeseburger	\$3.39	\$4.49	\$1.10
Veggie burger	\$3.99	\$4.99	\$1.00
Crispy chicken sandwich	\$3.79	\$4.99	\$1.20
Grilled cheese	\$2.49	\$3.49	\$1.00
Grilled cheese add meat	\$3.49	\$4.99	\$1.50
Fries	\$1.29	\$1.99	\$0.70
Chicken tenders	\$5.29	\$5.29	\$0.00
Cheese curds	\$4.69	\$5.99	\$1.30
Burrito	\$7.50	\$8.49	\$0.99

Food price increases from 2022-23 school year to 2023-24 school year, provided by Kim Henderson, Campus Services Manager.

unable to generate enough revenue to support its expenditures.

According to Ben Monty, Budget Director, the Dining Services department falls under "Enterprise Fund" types, which are operations that are intended to generate revenue via self-sustaining services, like daily food provisions or printing needs. However, Dining Services has not been able to financially support itself for the last 10 years, with the worst financial performance occurring between 2020-2022, during the COVID-19 pandemic shut-downs.

Part of that is due to wage increases approved by the District Board. In July, full- and part-time Madison College employees received up to a 4% raise, and student employees saw a \$1 increase to the hourly minimum wage from \$14 to \$15 per hour. The increase in wages means higher expenditure in the Dining Services budget.

The other major influence is a decline in customer base since the traditional flow of students who would usually frequent the cafeteria are not returning to campus. While college enrollment has improved since the pandemic with 24,722 students enrolling in 2022, Madison College has been unable to reach pre-pandemic levels of enrollment with 33,360 students enrolling in 2019.

Additionally, Madison College has always had a reputation as a commuter college, but Monty suspects that commuting has only become more popular even since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, many students take advantage of Online and Hybrid learning models, which reduces the number of students that would physically be on the Truax Campus.

"We're not trying to run [the cafeteria] purely to make money. We want to keep the prices affordable for students, but at the same time, we can't just keep losing money. At some point we have to cover those losses," Monty said.

From a financial perspective, Monty is certainly correct that more funding is needed to address the deficit in the Dining Services budget.

With credit to Dining Services, the revenue has increased from \$1,326,000 in 2021 to 2022 to \$2,033,000 in 2022 to 2023, but there is still more work needed to turn Dining Services into a true Enterprise Operation.

Helping students offset cost

The Campus Services Manager, Kim Henderson, presides over Enterprise Operations. With two years

at Madison College under her belt, with the struggles of reopening the cafeteria after the pandemic, she is looking to change the way students see dining services.

Henderson understands the financial burden of students, especially related to food insecurity amidst the current state of the economy. In fact, she has even covered the bill for some students to be able eat because she has seen how difficult, and sometimes even shameful, it can be to ask for help with food.

"Most students are very prideful, so they don't want everybody to know about their food insecurity. So, we created a voucher, so it doesn't identify students," Henderson said.

Overall, that is why her department strives to find ways that ease the price burden for students and connect them to the proper resources to access reliable and healthy food options on campus. Using new meal deals, discounts and vouchers, students can make the cost of food more affordable.

In addition to the traditional Meal of the Day deal, there are three new lunch deals piloting this Fall term. Either a burrito or full panini sandwich with a side (chips or cookie) and fountain soda costs \$9.99, or students can sub a half panini sandwich for \$6.99

as a package deal.

By depositing money on the OneCard, students can save 10% on food purchases at any campus dining spot. Dining Services has also been working in partnership with Counseling Services to expand voucher options to allow students with food insecurity to access meal options at low and no cost.

Quality matters

For students, taking advantage of these opportunities can make a substantial difference in cost savings as the prices slowly creep up over time. And while the overall average cafeteria price increase of \$0.87 is not much, those increases add up over time and can impact tightened budgets.

Still, to a degree, students like Way do understand the reality of the situation given the rate of inflation. But even so, Way said that he would not mind paying more if the quality of the food better matched the price he was paying.

"The meals aren't awful. It's mostly just OK overall, but the quality just isn't there so the food doesn't feel worth the price that I'm paying," Way said.

Henderson acknowledges that there are many rumored comments, both good and bad, about the quality of the cafeteria food from students, so she is determined to collect quantifiable data on consumer opinions. She said she likes to operate on certified facts, not rumors, so Dining Services plans to roll out a survey so that students submit anonymous feedback for improvement.

Starting on Sept. 5, the cafeteria will place a secure box in the atrium around the corner to collect survey responses from cafeteria patrons. The box will remain available throughout the year and will periodically be checked so Dining Services can respond to feedback.

Henderson says that this is just one of the many improvements she plans to roll out this year.

Working with her Dining Services team, Lisa Hunter, David Dorst and Mike Riese, together they will be processing the survey responses and strategizing plans for how to innovate the cafeteria and serve a product that students can enjoy.

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Students speak in defense of transgender rights

KAI BRITO
Copy Editor

Two Madison College students testified at the Wisconsin State Capitol in defense of transgender rights to participate in sports at the K-12 and collegiate levels, as well as access gender-affirming medical care for youth.

The Wisconsin State Legislature earlier this month held public hearings for a trio of bills that would impact students at Wisconsin schools. One pair of bills centers on proposed athletics rules requiring transgender youth to participate in K-12 sports (AB 377) and transgender college students to compete on athletics teams (AB 378) that correlate with their sex assigned at birth.

The other bill (AB 465) would prohibit health care providers from engaging in, referring, or providing medical care that would alter the body to change the sex of a minor, or anyone under the age of 18 years old.

Athletic teams and competitions

Amelia Roys is a Madison College student and lifelong Wisconsin resident who testified for the first time at the Capitol this Wednesday. For Roys, she said the transgender athletics bills would deprive other students from the opportunity to participate as part of a team, work towards a common goal and have an outlet to physically improve themselves.

Roys, a transgender woman, began to explore gender perceptions her senior year of high school and joined the track team to help solidify her identity. She wasn't the fastest member by a longshot, being the only senior competing at the Junior Varsity level, but her goal was mainly to improve personal fitness in a social context. She said being a member of the track team allowed her to do just that.

"Fundamentally, to see the self-determination of trans people stripped away, even though I'm not in HS anymore or under 18, it felt personal. That was me just two years ago," she said.

The author of the pair of sports bills, Wisconsin State Representative Barbara Dittrich, has been a longtime proponent of women's achievements in sports, introducing the "Protecting Women in Sports Act" back in 2021.

In her written testimony, she stated that the bill is not meant to be interpreted as transphobic, hateful or a ban on transgender individuals as a whole. Her primary concern is to help girls succeed in sports and prevent transgender athletes, like swimmer Lia Thomas, from competing on an uneven playing field with an unfair advantage in women's sports.

Rep. Dittrich said she knows at least six known transgender students participating in WIAA sports out of more than 85,000 estimated students who participate in school sports across Wisconsin. Overall, she says this is "a matter of equality and justice" for female athletes.

But Roys thinks that there is too much of a focus on competition and that supporters of the bill are speaking from the position that school sports are exclusively to win games, bring home scholarships and acquire trophies. From her perspective, she didn't join the team to win a title or a championship but rather to participate in an activity she enjoyed with peers.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) is the regulatory agency that oversees high school sports in Wisconsin, and they have registered in opposition to the bills. In the past, the WIAA has also registered in opposition to Rep. Dittrich's original bills from 2021.

The current WIAA Transgender Participation Policy considers a number of criteria to determine a student's eligibility to participate in sponsored athletics, including but not limited to (1) documentation supporting a student's stated gender identity, (2) written verification from a health-care professional and (3) medical records of hormone therapy.

Medical care for transgender youth

Theo Shulman is no stranger to public discourse. He studies Political Science in the Liberal Arts Transfer program at Madison College, serves at the Vice President of Public Relations for Student Senate, and was the Constituent Services Intern in the Office of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers.

Shulman registered in opposition to AB 465 and spoke in-person for public comment on the bill. As a transgender man, he viewed it as his public duty to speak on behalf of other transgender youth who are seeking gender-affirming

medical treatment.

"It's not a question of bravery, it's a question of having a voice and using it... speaking for all of the people that this bill would affect and be harmed by," Shulman said. "It's what I hope anyone would do, speak out in a way that would have to be heard."

In Shulman's public testimony, he shared his own transition journey, beginning at the age of 18 which he says ultimately "saved his life." He views the legislation as a restriction on an individual's freedom of personal identity and right to privacy. As a bold finisher to his statements, he injected a medical dose of testosterone into his leg during the public hearing.

Several physician groups, including the Wisconsin Medical Society, Wisconsin Public Health Association, and Medical College of Wisconsin, have registered in opposition to this bill. On the national level, four major medical groups have issued statements of support for gender-affirming medical care, including the largest professional medical group, the American Medical Association, according to Wisconsin Watch.

At least 22 states have current laws that ban access to gender-affirming care for minors and many transgender youths, approximately 45%, live in states that have lost access to, or are at risk of losing access to, that medical care according to the Human Rights Campaign.

What's next for the Legislature?

Given the current makeup of the Wisconsin State Legislature, the trio of bills are likely to pass and be sent to Gov. Evers' desk. But when the bills were first introduced, Evers made it clear that he would veto those bills.

"Trans kids, people, and families are part of our world," Evers said in a tweet. "And any time you want to mess with them, you're going to get a veto from me. Pretty simple."

Gov. Evers reaffirmed his commitment to reject the anti-trans laws and met with folks opposed to the set of bills targeting trans athletes and access to gender-affirming medical care. Each of the bills has been referred to the committee, but do not yet have a date set to be heard on the legislative floor.

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