

-SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION EXAMINING ALTERNATIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE MODELS-

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Juvenile Correctional Institution (JCI), Lincoln Hills School for Boys (Lincoln Hills) was raided by law enforcement on December 5, 2015 in response to allegations of physical abuse of a child, second-degree sexual assault, and victim and witness intimidation; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Hills is located in North Central Wisconsin, and more than 50% of the juvenile inmate population is from Milwaukee County; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2015, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors passed legislation requesting that judges refrain from placing juveniles at Lincoln Hills and urging the governor of Wisconsin and the county executive to find alternative secure placements near Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported on January 11, 2016 that 16 state employees were placed on paid leave due to the ongoing investigation at Lincoln Hills, and the Department of Corrections refuses to provide details on how much these paid leaves are costing taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, one of the many repercussions of the issues identified at Lincoln Hills may be the increased cost due to the investigation, e.g., paid leave of staff, overtime caused by the loss of 5.6 percent of its staff, and legal costs; and

WHEREAS, the investigation of Lincoln Hills illustrates what numerous studies have shown that juvenile delinquency services are more successful and cost efficient when they are provided locally in small, community-based programs; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has advocated for community-based, locally-operated, outcome-driven programming to improve outcomes for youth; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has developed a number of alternatives to placement at Lincoln Hills, including the 180 Program, a post-dispositional program at the Northwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center which allows a maximum secure detention option for up to 365 days per Wis. Stat. § 938.34(3)(f); and

WHEREAS, under current law state judges order the placement of juveniles in the state-run JCI's, and counties are charged daily rates set by the state for the care of adjudicated juveniles; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature has pending legislation (2015 Assembly Bill 746) that advocates the creation of a committee to study a successful model for juvenile corrections in Missouri and directs the committee to develop a plan for implementation here in Wisconsin; and

