



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID BOWEN

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

10TH DISTRICT

May 10, 2019

Secretary Kevin Carr
Secretary Emilie Amundson
Senator Alberta Darling
Senator Lena Taylor
Senator Van Wanggaard

Representative David Crowley
Representative Mark Born
Representative Joe Sanfelippo
Representative Michael Schraa
Sharlen Moore

Dear Members of the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee,

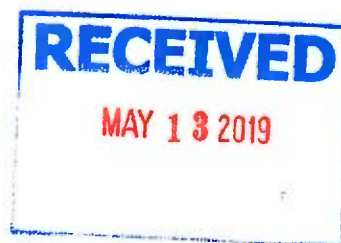
In response to the valid concerns raised at your most recent meeting on May 6, 2019, I am writing your committee to inform you of an amendment that I have drafted to Assembly Bill 188 to help address the high costs of the bids that counties have submitted for the construction of Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs). This results from communication with Rep. Schraa and Rep. Goyke, who worked with me on this amendment. As you know, as the "trailer bill" to 2017 Wisconsin Act 185, Assembly Bill 188 provides technical fixes to the existing law and allows counties more flexibility in the timeline for the grant application process.

My amendment would allow your committee to grant a variance from the rules promulgated under s. 301.37 if your committee determines that the variance is necessary *either* to achieve a reasonable cost-saving measure that will not compromise the quality or type of evidence-based, trauma-informed care that is offered at the facility *or* to incorporate new practices of evidence-based, trauma-informed care at the facility. This variance would only be accepted if it is included in your committee's recommendations for funding to the Joint Committee on Finance and if the plan is approved by the Joint Committee on Finance. Moreover, all SRCCCYs granted such a variance would still need to meet the minimum requirements of the commercial building code.

My goal with this amendment is to allow flexibility to counties and your committee so that we can build off of the historic achievement of 2017 Act 185 and work together to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake once and for all and replace them with regional, community-based alternatives much different than previous outdated models of incarceration and more toward new home and dorm-like atmospheres to get our youth on the right track.

Respectfully,

David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District



Cc: Governor Tony Evers
Kyle Christianson, Wisconsin Counties Association