



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: November 18, 2014

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Statement of County Board File No. 14-845 claiming the 2015 Recommended Budget raises taxes

I am returning County Board File No. 14-845 unsigned. Since the resolution has no functional impact, there is no reason to sign or veto it. However, I think it's important to clarify some potential misconceptions.

The resolution claims "the proposed 2015 BHD tax levy represents a County Executive recommended tax levy increase of approximately \$1.62 million that must be incorporated into the 2015 Adopted Budget."

While the resolution appears a public statement of compliance with a state law that is designed to improved mental health care and was approved 122-1 by the Legislature, the public should be clear - my 2015 Recommend Budget did not raise taxes. This fact has been noted many times, including in the Comptroller's Overview of the budget where they wrote on page 20, "Property Tax revenue is budgeted at \$279,321,196, the same as the 2014 Adopted Budget."

The Public Policy Forum's Budget Brief also notes the fact on page 3, "The property tax is the next largest revenue source at \$279 million (identical to the 2014 budgeted amount)."