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5 **A RESOLUTION**

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7 Supporting state legislation to improve community health outcomes by authorizing the  
8 Wisconsin Department of Health Services to pursue a Medicaid waiver for pre-release  
9 health care for incarcerated individuals

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12 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to becoming the healthiest county in  
13 Wisconsin and promoting the best possible outcomes for incarcerated individuals in its  
14 care; and

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16 WHEREAS, people transitioning from correctional facilities to the community face  
17 high rates of relapse, overdose, untreated chronic and mental health conditions, and  
18 reentry instability; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Community Reintegration Center (CRC) is statutorily responsible  
21 for medical and mental health care for those in its custody, and the Sheriff is  
22 responsible for the care of individuals housed in the Criminal Justice Facility (CJF); and

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24 WHEREAS, providing case management prior to release and ensuring access to  
25 medications at the moment of reentry helps stabilize health needs, connect individuals  
26 to community behavioral health services, and reduce the risk of overdose; and

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28 WHEREAS, historically, Medicaid reimbursement was not allowed for individuals  
29 in correctional facilities, requiring the state and counties to pay for all health services  
30 provided in prisons and jails in Wisconsin; and

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32 WHEREAS, in 2023, the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)  
33 began approving Section 1115 demonstration waivers that permit state and county  
34 correctional facilities to receive Medicaid reimbursement for specific services—including  
35 substance use disorder care—provided to individuals up to 90 days before their release  
36 from a correctional facility; and

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38 WHEREAS, as of October 2025, 19 states have received approval from CMS  
39 and another nine have pending waivers to provide these pre-release services; and

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41 WHEREAS, 2025 Wisconsin Assembly Bill 604 (AB 604) and its companion,

42 Senate Bill 598 (SB 598) have been introduced in the state legislature to authorize the  
43 Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to apply for a Medicaid Section 1115  
44 demonstration waiver; and

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46 WHEREAS, passage of AB 604/SB 598 would establish a pathway to  
47 sustainable funding for incarcerated individuals' health care for up to 90 days prior to  
48 release—including pre-release case management, medication-assisted treatment for all  
49 types of substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of prescription medications; and

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51 WHEREAS, this waiver would allow Milwaukee County to supplement limited  
52 local resources and enable broader access to critical mental health care services,  
53 reduce criminal justice costs, and improve community outcomes; and

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55 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of  
56 January 16, 2026, recommended adoption of File No. 26-227 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

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58 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors strongly  
59 supports passage of 2025 Assembly Bill 604/Senate Bill 598, which has the potential to  
60 make a meaningful, positive impact on the lives of individuals and families involved in  
61 the criminal justice system while potentially reducing the County's costs; and

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63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Office of Government  
64 Affairs is requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Governor,  
65 members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the Wisconsin Counties Association  
66 to encourage statewide support for this crucial community health initiative.

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70 s://committees/2026/january-february/igr jan 16/resolutions/26-227 gómez-tom supporting medicaid pre-release

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