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From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' Legislative Liaison, Office of Government Affairs, communicate Milwaukee County's youth justice reform policies to State of Wisconsin policymakers, agency staff, and other key stakeholders, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the Milwaukee County Executive and Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors have been working with key stakeholders to address the crisis at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools, juvenile correctional facilities operated by the State of Wisconsin (the State), and have embraced policies surrounding the creation of a local, alternative option for Milwaukee County youth to be placed in a safe environment, closer to home; and

WHEREAS, in March 2018, the State Legislature adopted Act 185 (the Act), which directs the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools as youth correctional facilities by January 1, 2021, with counties assuming responsibility for operating Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs); and

WHEREAS, while the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) believes these changes will move the needle closer to achieving reform of the youth justice system, more efforts are needed on the front end so that a young person doesn't have to get into trouble to get help; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that the front end should be reinforced by:

- Strengthening the continuum of services with increased investment in prevention and diversion
- Building communities through a coordination of services with community agencies, and access to mental health and substance abuse services
- Emphasizing support and connectedness, including connectedness to community, family, pro-social peers, and school

; and

40 WHEREAS, DHHS recommends the following actions to achieve a stronger front
41 end:

- 42
- 43 • Establishment of a formal mentoring network using “Credible Messengers”
- 44 – individuals with lived experience who can mentor young people by
- 45 connecting them to resources
- 46 • Empowering young people by establishing strategies for community
- 47 building and leadership development
- 48 • Strengthening after-care, transition, and re-integration

49
50 ; and

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52 WHEREAS, DHHS has been working with the Wisconsin Counties Association
53 and the Milwaukee County Executive’s Liaison, Office of Government Affairs, to promote
54 legislative changes related to the Act, and plans to pursue changes focused on
55 improving the front end; and

56
57 WHEREAS, there is a collective recognition by counties that the funding allocated
58 in the Act for SRCCCYs is insufficient, therefore DHHS fully supports the following
59 initiatives in the Governor’s proposed 2019-2021 Biennial State Budget:

- 60
- 61 ○ Increase of \$60 million for a total of \$100 million allocated for SRCCCY
- 62 grants to counties for the planning and construction of SRCCCYs
- 63 ○ Additional funding allocated for construction start-up and one-time start-up
- 64 costs to counties that create SRCCCYs
- 65 ○ Though not included in the proposed budget, DHHS is also seeking
- 66 additional funding to cover its future ongoing operating gap of \$2.7 million
- 67 and one-time start-up costs of \$1.7 million

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69 ; and

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71 WHEREAS, DHHS also supports an initiative to change jurisdiction of 17-year-old
72 offenders from adult court to juvenile court, and sum sufficient funding to cover county
73 costs as proposed in the Governor’s Budget; and

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75 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
76 April 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-337 as amended (vote 5-0); now,
77 therefore,

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79 ~~BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors’ Legislative~~
80 ~~Liaison, Office of Government Affairs, is authorized and directed to communicate~~
81 ~~Milwaukee County’s youth justice reform priorities contained herein to State~~
82 ~~policymakers, agency staff, and others to help effectuate these policy directives.~~
83

84 BE IT RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and
85 requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the State of Wisconsin (the
86 State) Governor and the State Legislature.

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