



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: June 1, 2017

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 17-375 which delays local reforms of the Lincoln Hills crisis

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I am vetoing County Board File No. 17-375. This file denies the use of funds for creating a placement facility that could serve as an alternative to Lincoln Hills. This is at least the County Board's third delay (ex. File #17-84 and File #16-505) to creating local alternatives to Lincoln Hills. This sends a terrible message to the kids, families and community who are impacted by this issue.

It also sends a terrible message to our many partners in the state legislature, the courts, and the social justice community who have been working with us to effect change. My office has had conversations with faith leaders, the ACLU, youth advocates, and leaders from both parties in both houses of state government. They all share my concerns about improving public safety and improving outcomes for these kids, many of whom have experienced significant trauma.

I know Supervisors agree that we should be sending fewer kids to Lincoln Hills and have more evidence-based and local alternatives. However, for this to happen, Supervisors need to partner with the administration instead of continuously denying or delaying our actions – all of which have been community-informed and evidence-based. The courts – not me or my administration -- determine the most appropriate placement for juvenile offenders. If we cannot work together to expand placement options here in Milwaukee County, judges will not be left with many other choices. I have serious concerns that continued legislative inaction at the County level will have the adverse impact of sending more children to failed institutions like Lincoln Hills, when they could be receiving treatment here in our community.

I ask you to sustain this veto.