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CAVALIER JOHNSON

ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
Milwaukee County Board Of Supervisors
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear members of the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee:

I am writing in full support of Supervisor Sequanna Taylor's resolution, file no: 17-523, ending the practice of shackling pregnant or postpartum persons in custody at a Milwaukee County correctional facility. Supervisor Taylor's resolution addresses the recently brought to light episode of the shackling of a pregnant inmate during childbirth, against the wishes of the attending medical professional. This effort behind this resolution mirrors the policies of eighteen other states, multiple federal law enforcement agencies and the American Correctional Association already limiting the practice.

Additionally, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, shackling places "the health and the lives of the women and unborn children at risk," and describes the method as "demeaning and unnecessary." This resolution puts the health and dignity of women and unborn children above the use of this unnecessary and degrading practice while providing consideration for safety and security in "extraordinary situations."

I am deeply concerned about this matter. I fully support Supervisor Taylor's resolution to end the shackling of pregnant and postpartum inmates in the custody of the Milwaukee County correctional system.

My very best,

Ald. Cavalier Johnson
2nd District

