



For Immediate Release

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Assembly Democrats Lead the Charge on Juvenile Corrections Reform

After years of inaction by Governor Walker, AB 953 is first step towards broader reform

MADISON – Today, the State Assembly unanimously passed AB 953 which overhauls the juvenile corrections system in Wisconsin. These long overdue changes will create better outcomes for youth offenders and reduce recidivism rates. Despite years of inaction by Governor Walker, Assembly Democrats consistently championed juvenile corrections reform, leading to today's vote. Assembly Democratic Leader Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) released the following statement on the passage of AB 953.

"Today is a good day. I'm proud that Wisconsin Democrats lead the charge on juvenile corrections reform in Wisconsin. We supported this bill today with three things in mind: a commitment to better outcomes for kids, reducing recidivism, and cost savings. The work done by Representative Evan Goyke, Representative David Bowen, and Representative David Crowley led to a bi-partisan bill that will achieve these goals.

"It is ironic that we're voting to close Lincoln Hills the same week we're taking up a regressive package of criminal justice bills that will lead to the construction of a new prison despite stagnant population growth. I hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle reconsider this wasteful, ineffective decision and instead focus on evidence-based policies that will reduce our prison population.

"Even though it was an election year that made the Governor see the light, nevertheless I'm glad the result will be the closure of a juvenile corrections facility plagued with problems for the past six years and better outcomes for the children of our state. The fact is, you can't fix the corrections system overnight. Governor Walker has held no coherent corrections policy since he took office. Let today serve as the starting point of a broader corrections reform debate in Wisconsin."

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