



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DAVID BOWEN**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

10TH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 10, 2019

Contact: Rep. David Bowen  
(608) 266-7671

**Rep. Bowen Releases Letter to Grant Committee Highlighting Amendment  
for Cost Savings Variances for Alternatives to Lincoln Hills**

*Amendment Will Help Provide Counties Flexibility*

MADISON - After a number of concerns raised earlier this week by Act 185 partner Counties and stakeholders presented in the most recent meeting of the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee, tasked with helping implement the closure of the troubled Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Juvenile Corrections facilities, Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) made public the following letter, attached [below](#).

The amendment to the trailer bill, proposed by Rep. Bowen with the cooperation of Reps. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) and Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee), would allow Counties certain variances to existing Department of Corrections rules governing the construction and maintenance of SRCCY facilities in order to save costs while maintaining safety and functionality.

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Secretary Kevin Carr  
Secretary Emilie Amundson  
Senator Alberta Darling  
Senator Lena Taylor  
Senator Van Wanggaard

Representative David Crowley  
Representative Mark Born  
Representative Joe Sanfelippo  
Representative Michael Schraa  
Sharlen Moore

Dear Members of the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee,

In response to the valid concerns raised at your most recent meeting on May 6, 2019, I am writing your committee to inform you of an amendment that I have drafted to Assembly Bill 188 to help address the high costs of the bids that counties have submitted for the construction of Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs). This results from communication with Rep. Schraa and Rep. Goyke, who worked with me on this amendment. As you know, as the "trailer bill" to 2017 Wisconsin Act 185, Assembly Bill 188 provides technical fixes to the existing law and allows counties more flexibility in the timeline for the grant application process.

My amendment would allow your committee to grant a variance from the rules promulgated under s. 301.37 if your committee determines that the variance is necessary *either* to achieve a reasonable cost-saving measure that will not compromise the quality or type of evidence-based, trauma-informed care that is offered at the facility *or* to incorporate new practices of evidence-based, trauma-informed care at the facility. This variance would only be accepted if it is included in your committee's recommendations for funding to the Joint Committee on Finance and if the plan is approved by the Joint Committee on Finance. Moreover, all SRCCCYs granted such a variance would still need to meet the minimum requirements of the commercial building code.

My goal with this amendment is to allow flexibility to counties and your committee so that we can build off of the historic achievement of 2017 Act 185 and work together to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake once and for all and replace them with regional, community-based alternatives much different than previous outdated models of incarceration and more toward new home and dorm-like atmospheres to get our youth on the right track.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bowen".

David Bowen  
State Representative  
10th Assembly District

Cc: Governor Tony Evers  
Kyle Christianson, Wisconsin Counties Association