



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 20, 2019

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**Rep. Bowen Statement on Passage of AB 188**  
*Bowen Cheers Passage of “Trailer Bill” to Historic 2017 Act 185*

MADISON - State Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement in response to Assembly Bill 188, the “trailer bill” to last Session’s historic Act 185 closing the troubled Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools, passing the Assembly earlier this afternoon:

“I am encouraged with the result of today’s vote on AB 188. Yet again, we have seen broad bipartisan support for reforming our youth criminal justice system and making sure that the youths currently housed at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake have the chance to live with dignity in a redesigned system. AB 188 builds on the historic success of Act 185 and helps ensure that these youths have the chance to turn their lives around, in trauma-informed centers that understand and respond to their needs.”

AB 188 refines some of the language in the original bill and incorporates feedback from the state agencies and counties tasked with implementing Act 185.

“I am also incredibly proud to have played a key role in helping draft the amendment to AB 188 adopted today working with leading colleagues. This amendment provides greater flexibility to the counties and helps ensure that the community-based treatment centers that will replace Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake will provide the highest level of treatment and care for the youth who will be living there. It’s time to bring these youths closer to home and to ensure that they have the opportunity to live in environments that will help to rehabilitate them and prepare them to successfully re-enter society and thrive.”

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