



GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

TONY EVERS, GOVERNOR
DIANE RONDINI, CHAIR

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To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
From: Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission
Re: Governor's 2025 – 2027 Biennial Budget (Assembly Bill 50/Senate Bill 45)
Date: April 2, 2025

As the State Advisory Group (SAG) to the Governor and the Legislature on matters critical to juvenile justice and authorized by state Executive Order #43 and the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission (GJJC) supports several provisions of the Governor's Biennial Budget. The investments described below will provide needed resources to prevent delinquency, reduce recidivism, and improve outcomes for youth and families.

The GJJC is a collaborative body made up of professionals and individuals representing a broad swath of the juvenile justice system. Members include a Chief Circuit Court Judge, a psychologist, a Public Defender, a Deputy District Attorney, a social worker, elected officials, victim advocates, youth advocates, and tribal representatives. There are representatives from the Department of Corrections - Division of Juvenile Corrections, and the Department of Children and Families - Bureau of Youth Services. Each Commissioner uses their expertise to identify best practices and advocate for necessary reforms. On behalf of the GJJC, the GJJC Policy, Legislation and Compliance (PLC) Subcommittee approved (with a majority vote including two members abstaining) their support for the juvenile justice reforms in the Governor's 2025-2027 State Budget Proposal.

1. **Raise the age of civil, municipal, and juvenile court jurisdiction to all persons under the age of 18.**
2. **Fully reimburse counties for the costs associated with services for 17-year-olds.**
3. **Create a Juvenile Justice Reform Review Committee to study and recommend juvenile justice reforms to DCF and DOC.**
4. **Provide funding for school-based mental health services to expand the capacity of schools to offer mental health services and support to pupils.**
5. **Increase funding for Youth Aids and refocus Community Intervention Program funding towards prevention, early intervention, diversion, and other services that improve outcomes for youth.**
6. **Close Lincoln Hills School/Copper Lake School and shift the juveniles to the new DOC Type 1 facility in Milwaukee, and the Racine and Milwaukee County Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs).**

The GJJC urges the legislature to adopt these provisions and fulfill the vision of a state in which all youth and families are safe, healthy, educated, supported equitably, and provided opportunities to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration to include these recommendations into the 2025 – 2027 State Budget.

Diane Rondini
GJJC PLC Co-Chair Diane Rondini

Judge Carl Ashley
GJJC PLC Co-Chair Carl Ashley

cc: Governor Tony Evers
Wisconsin Legislature
GJC
GJC PLC Subcommittee

Attachments – GJC Membership and PLC Membership