

**From:** [Chad Berginnis](#)  
**To:** [Krohn, Margaret](#); [Eicher, Analiese](#); [Schauer, Andrew](#); [Chenoweth, Carl](#); [Erickson, Chuck](#); [Audet, Kristen](#); [Miles, Patrick](#); [Stubbs, Shelia](#)  
**Cc:** [cmborginnis@gmail.com](mailto:cmborginnis@gmail.com); [Chad Berginnis](#); [Downing, J Patrick](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Operating Amendment HHN-O-01 (part of 2020 ACT-180)  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020 11:09:54 AM

---

CAUTION: External Email - Beware of unknown links and attachments. Contact Helpdesk at 266-4440 if unsure

Dear Personnel and Finance Committee Members:

I am Chad Berginnis, resident of Dane County and Mount Horeb. I am writing today to oppose Operating Amendment HHN-O-01 that you will be considering this evening as part of the Health and Human Needs Committee Operating and Capital Budget Recommendations. Unfortunately, I have three kids to take care of after work so I cannot speak to this item during the public meeting tonight.

While I am supportive of the mental health ambulance pilot project for which some funding is already included in the City of Madison's budget, I am in staunch opposition to the expansion of the pilot as proposed in HHN-O-01 because it would be funded by eliminating three Sherriff Deputies. The Justification in the amendment presents a false choice – cut law enforcement and magically problems will go away if funds, are shifted instead to mental health services. As a resident of Dane County with three young kids, I feel safe with our law enforcement presence. As many of you undoubtedly know, the Dane County Sheriff's office was important in the arrest of Riley Burg, who committed a random murder in Mount Horeb this past January, less than two miles from my home. What if the cuts, would mean that such crimes cannot be investigated as thoroughly and mentally ill individuals like Mr. Burg remain on the loose in my community? The reality is every community needs to have both ample law enforcement and mental health services.

Given the fact that the 2021 Dane County Budget is being balanced by using rainy day funds and tax increases (which I will gladly pay to support excellent services that we receive) and that the largest portion of the budget, \$239,497,599, is sectioned off to human services, an amendment like this which cuts law enforcement for a small pilot expansion is absolutely the wrong approach for Dane County and solves absolutely nothing. If the pilot is that important, then fund it (which is literally less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of the proposed annual budget), but please, please, don't compromise my or my family's safety for such a misguided approach!

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully,

Chad Berginnis  
200 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

