

To: Public Protection and Judiciary Committee Members
From: Carrie Springer
Re: Proposed Agenda Updates

Below you will find draft language to consider for updating for the “Criminal Justice and Corrections” section, the “Youth Justice” section, and the “Public Safety and Emergency Management” sections of the agenda for your discussion. I incorporated the language used in 2019 RES-087 regarding criminal justice system improvements, language in 2020 Res-180 regarding Smart Justice, and the CJC website for most of the updates. The youth justice section is slightly updated to reflect that Dane County did not participate in the state SRCCY program, but still supports state funds for secure residential care centers and expanding mental health services in the juvenile justice system.

Criminal Justice and Corrections

- **Racial disparities:** Support all efforts to remove racial inequities and inequitable access to our broken criminal justice system. Support publishing racial disparity and incarceration statistics at all levels of the criminal justice system.
- **Smart Justice:** Support legislation and state investments in smart justice reforms that work to solve the problems of crime such as access to mental health services, treatment for addiction, affordable housing, education, and employment rather than simply punishing people. Support evidence-based, data-driven reforms that enhance fairness and efficiencies while increasing safety and reducing taxpayer costs.
- **Triage and restoration:** Support state investment in community triage and restoration centers.
- **Alternatives to incarceration:** Support alternatives to incarceration throughout the criminal justice system with strong state support for front-end diversion programs.
- **Expungement:** Support removing employment barriers by creating an opportunity for expungement for all ages.
- **Bail, Probation & Parole:** Support comprehensive reform on state parole and probation revocation policy, including decreasing crimeless revocations and allowing individuals to be released pending revocation investigation in order to reduce days in jail. Support reforms to bail and conditions of pretrial release that respects the constitutional rights of the accused, enhances public safety, and incorporates evidence-based strategies.
- **Changes to state DOC process:** Urge the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to hold revocation hearings outside of jails and continue technological changes that help reduce length of stay.
- **Mental Health Courts:** Encourage state support for county mental health courts.

- **Prisoner Re-entry:** Adequately fund prisoner community re-entry programs to increase success and effectiveness.
- **Close Public Defender Eligibility Gap:** Support changing Public Defender eligibility level to the same level as eligibility for appointed counsel to eliminate the gap that currently requires the court to appoint counsel at county expense.
- **County Jail:** Support full state funding for probation and parole holds, more funding for incarceration alternatives, and support Justice Impact Statements.
- **Treatment Alternatives and Diversion:** Support enhancements to public safety and reduce unnecessary corrections related expenditures by (a) Increasing funding for the treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program by \$15 million annually; (b) Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a violent crime can be eligible if the new crime is non-violent in nature; (c) Changing the statute so that people with a mental health issue (and not a co-occurring addiction issue) can be eligible; and (d) Focusing the growth in TAD in these three main areas: (1) Expansion of OWI Courts, SSTOP, and other programs that address drunk driving; (2) Expansion of drug treatment programs that can help deal with the growing heroin problem as well as other drugs; and (3) Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted to the communities that have the state's highest incarceration rates.
- **Court Interpreters:** Support appointing court interpreters to all cases regardless of indigency and support an increase in state funding for reimbursement to counties for interpreter services.
- **Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act:** Support creation of WCJRA to provide sentencing judges with more effective treatment options while reducing the prison population and sharing the savings with counties to fund local criminal justice/treatment programs.
- **Racial Disparity Subcommittee:** Support creation of a state Criminal Justice Coordinating Council subcommittee on racial disparities within the criminal justice system.
- **State Court System:** Increase state funding of the circuit court system, including court security.
- **Victim-Witness Program:** Support full state funding of program costs.
- **Clerk of Court Fees:** Pursue statutory changes to increase the county share of fines/forfeitures.
- **License Fee:** Support \$12 for driver's license suspension if the fee is payable by the defendant.
- **Domestic Violence:** Support state funding for domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution, including funding for three ADA positions dedicated to domestic violence and shelter services.
- **Fee Increase for Jury Trial:** Support legislation to increase the fee for a jury trial from \$6 to \$15. The funding is needed to offset increases in juror compensation.
- **Prisoner Hospitalization:** Oppose any legislation that would reverse/overturn the WI Supreme Court ruling on the Meriter case.

- **District Attorney Funding:** Support increased state funding for more Deputy District Attorney and Assistance District Attorney positions to meet growing caseloads.
- **Mental Health Screenings:** Support and fund mental health screening and treatment for jailed inmates in county juvenile detention, shelter homes, and county jails.
- **Legalize Marijuana:** Support legislation legalizing marijuana. Dane County voters approved by 76% “yes” votes and 24% “no” votes.
- **Interstate Traffic Tickets:** Amend State Statutes to allow Wisconsin to join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures to facilitate collection of out-of-state traffic violators and capture a needed revenue source for the state and county.
- **Boating Laws:** Authorize the state to license, regulate, and require education/training for operation of motorized watercraft. Support legislation making fines and associated penalties for drunken boating commensurate with those for drunken driving.

Youth Justice

- **Youth Justice:** Support continued funding for early intervention and intensive treatment programs. Support continued improvements to the youth justice and juvenile corrections systems that use research-based restorative actions, provide adequate funding for secured residential care centers, and expand access to comprehensive mental health services.
- **Youth Aids:** Support legislation to increase state funding for out-of-home care costs for youth offenders now paid for by Dane County. Limit increases in state rates for out-of-home placements for youth (including corrections, child caring institutions and residential care facilities) to no more than the increase in Youth Aids.
- **17 Year Olds:** Remove 17-year-olds from the adult correctional system and return them to Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Corrections.
- **Youth Programs:** Support continuation and expansions of programs focusing on prevention of delinquency, alcohol and other drug use, child abuse and neglect and domestic violence. Support increased funding and support for youth after school programs, especially at the middle school level.
- **Youth Courts:** Support and fund Youth Courts in Wisconsin High Schools.
- **Group Homes:** Support efforts to reassess the maximum daily rate that group homes receive.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

- **EMA Services:** Support legislation that encourages financial support of volunteers in emergency medical services and that addresses liability issues and professional standards. Support state reimbursement for radio frequency and upgrade requirements.
- **Communications Surcharge for 911 Systems:** Support legislation to redirect some of the Police and Fire Protection Fee surcharge to 911

Centers.

- **First Responder Training:** Require training for first responders on appropriate procedures for identifying, assisting, and interacting with older adults as well as other adults who may have complications from abuse, dementia, mental health or other disorders.
- **Open Records Law:** Support updating the open records law to cover all county costs for new and emerging labor-intensive records requests and associated costs including redaction.
- **Criminal Background Check:** Support additional funds to the Department of Justice to enable conducting of uniform criminal background checks of to-be-hired direct care workers by public non-profit agencies.
- **Multi-line Telephone System (MLTS) Calls to 911:** Support legislation requiring owners/operators of these systems to deliver Wisconsin 9-1-1 Centers precise location information instead of merely the “headquarters office” location and call-back numbers now delivered when callers from their system dial 9-1-1 seeking aid.
- **Support Gun Control:** Ban habitual criminals from obtaining concealed carry permits, make the purchase of a firearm for somebody who is prohibited from possessing a firearm a felony, make the possession of a concealed firearm by those prohibited under Wisconsin law a felony, and require that private gun sales be subject to criminal background checks performed by a federally licensed gun dealer.
- **Concealed Carry Weapons:** Modify the concealed carry law to prohibit concealed weapons from being carried onto the grounds, parking lots or areas associated with convention, entertainment, and sporting facilities, venues where the public assembles for tradeshow, demonstrations, conventions, consumer shows, entertainment, sporting or educational events, including zoos, convention centers, arenas, horse arenas, hockey arenas, concert and sporting venues for public assembly events, including when those facilities are used for private events, institutions of higher learning, public schools, child care facilities, community centers, health care facilities, and public mass transportation. Support setting concealed carry license fees at an amount sufficient to fund all County Sheriffs’ costs associated with administering the law.