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Rep. Goyke Commends Secretary Carr & Governor Evers' Support of Wisconsin's Corrections System

MADISON— Today the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) heard testimony from Department of Corrections Secretary Kevin Carr about Governor Evers' plan to improve quality of life, services, and safety for Wisconsin's incarcerated population and corrections staff. JFC Democratic member Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement at the conclusion of today's testimony:

"Today in committee Secretary Carr clearly outlined the responsibility of the State to care for incarcerated individuals and support the men and women who keep the public safe. Wisconsin's prisons have been neglected. Many of our State's policies are outdated. Pay for corrections staff and officers has stagnated, and healthcare costs have skyrocketed.

During the hearing, there was a productive discussion on comprehensive criminal justice reform. I look forward to – and stand ready to work on – this important issue. Governor Evers has prioritized his desire to work across the aisle to achieve this.

Secretary Carr and the Governor have shown their commitment to justice and equity for Wisconsin's children through the reclassification of 17-year old offenders out of the adult system. In order to reduce recidivism and support rehabilitation, 17-year olds need the option of additional resources in the juvenile system. I commend the Secretary and Governor for this essential piece of criminal justice reform."

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