



Position Paper on SB-621/AB-631

submitted by

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)
Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)

On behalf of the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB), we would like to thank you, the authors of AB-604/ SB-598, for crafting and introducing this legislation. Providing substance use services in local jails and prisons in Wisconsin and upon release from incarceration has long been a public health challenge, with the primary barrier reported from law enforcement partners being the financial support required to implement this programming. We applaud the legislature's efforts to create a pathway to bring additional funding into the state's carceral settings to support substance use disorder treatment and case management. A study published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) in September reinforces the efficacy of investing in medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in carceral settings – finding that individuals who received MOUD while in jail were more likely to continue MOUD post-release, and experience a decreased risk of overdose, death, and reincarceration. This legislation will save lives by reducing individual risk for overdose and providing support to individuals who are interested in receiving treatment for substance use disorders to establish and continue this care as they transition from carceral settings into the community.