

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

————— *Lee Holloway* —————

Chairman of the Board

June 6, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

**CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY THANKS SENATOR TAYLOR FOR
REQUESTING AUDIT OF SECURED JUVENILE FACILITIES**

Escalating juvenile correctional rates now cost Milwaukee County \$100,000 per juvenile per year

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway is thanking State Senator Lena Taylor for requesting a comprehensive audit of all Department of Corrections secured juvenile facilities and the daily rates charged to counties, which have increased by 74% since 2001. Senator Taylor made the request in a letter to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

“Senator Taylor’s call for an audit is the right thing to do. As Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, I applaud her for requesting that the State get a better handle on the escalating costs at these institutions,” Chairman Holloway said. “I thank Senator Taylor for listening to our concerns.”

“The rates charged to Wisconsin counties are astronomical,” Chairman Holloway added. “It now costs Milwaukee County almost \$100,000 per year to send just one delinquent to a secured detention facility.”

Without corresponding increases in Youth Aids from the State, Milwaukee County taxpayers are faced with an increasing burden as juvenile correctional institution rates rise. Milwaukee County will follow-up with the Co-Chairs of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Senator Jim Sullivan and Representative Sue Jeskewitz, in support of this request.

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LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

May 29, 2008

Senator Jim Sullivan
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit
State Capitol, Rm. 15 S
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Sue Jeskewitz
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit
State Capitol, Rm. 314 N
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

To The Honorable Senator Sullivan and Representative Jeskewitz,

Due to the prohibitive and continually rising costs of housing youths at the State's secured juvenile correctional facilities and an apparent drop in the population of incarcerated juveniles, it is my belief, as Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing, that the operations and administrative activities of our secured juvenile facilities need to be evaluated for best practices and fiscal efficiencies. Effective July 1, 2008, the JCI will be set by statutes at \$268 per day. This means that it will cost Wisconsin Counties almost \$100,000 to house just one juvenile in a secured facility for a year.

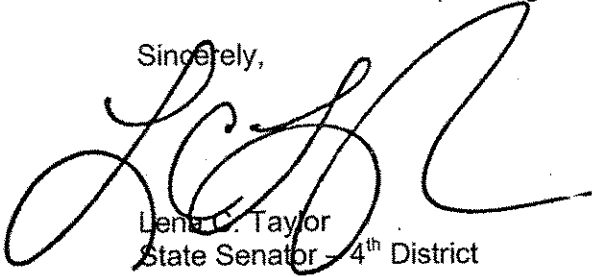
This notion of rate hikes in spite of decreasing population continues to concern me. During the 2005-2007 budget process, I co-authored a budget motion (Motion 464) with Representative Jeff Stone to require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to level rates (at \$187/day) or close one of their secured juvenile institutions. Unfortunately, this bi-partisan initiative was vetoed. Because I believe that we must strive to create better alternatives for our youths, **I write to request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct a comprehensive audit of DOC's secured juvenile facilities and the daily rate charges to counties.**

The goal is to ascertain whether our juvenile corrections system can operate more efficiently or if facility closure is necessary to reduce costs. At a minimum, the scope of the audit should include an explanation of costs and expenditures by institution and year-to-year comparisons of the charges to counties, in relation to the following:

- Administration
- Dietary
- Medical
- Programming (Care & Treatment)
- Security
- Facility Operations
- Education & Training
- A finding of whether or not one facility should be closed;
- An estimation of savings to state and counties should a facility be closed

This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and I welcome any suggestions this Committee or the State Auditor may have. I appreciate your consideration of this request. It is imperative in these austere times that the Legislature does all it can to curb any excessive or wasteful spending. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LCT', is written over the typed name and title.

Lena C. Taylor
State Senator - 4th District

LCT: mne

cc: State Auditor Jan Mueller
Milwaukee County Board Chair Lee Holloway
Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Director Eric Meaux

LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2008

Contact: Senator Lena C Taylor
(608) 266-5810

Taylor Calls for Audit of Secured Juvenile Facilities

MADISON – In a letter to the co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, State Senator Lena C. Taylor requested a comprehensive audit of all Department of Corrections (DOC) secured juvenile facilities and of the accompanying daily rate charges assessed to counties.

“The cost of maintaining these facilities keeps going up,” Taylor noted, “while Wisconsin’s population of incarcerated juveniles continues to decline. Given the financial pressures operating on our families and businesses, the Legislature has a responsibility to lessen costs wherever possible. A review of juvenile facilities by the Legislative Audit Bureau would be an important step in the right direction.”

Effective July 1, the juvenile corrections institution daily rate will be set by statutes at \$268 per day. Under the new rate, it will cost Wisconsin counties almost \$100,000 per year to house a single juvenile in a secured facility. This staggering annual cost prompted Taylor’s call for the audit.

“An audit would let us know whether or not our juvenile corrections system can operate more efficiently, either by cutting operating costs or closing unnecessary facilities. By examining the costs for things like administration, dietary and medical needs, programming, security, education and training, we could identify and eliminate fiscal inefficiencies. In tight economic times, that ought to be a priority.”

The co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Senator Jim Sullivan and Representative Sue Jeskewitz, will consider whether or not to grant a hearing to consider the proposed audit. At present, there is no deadline by which the Committee must grant or deny Senator Taylor’s request.

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