

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

Tuesday August 29, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of Assembly
Committee on Transportation,

YWCA Madison opposes AB 342. This bill will increase prison time for individuals convicted of nonviolent property crimes.

The State of Wisconsin should be focusing on alternatives to incarceration and keeping individuals out of our state prisons. Instead, this bill lengthens the maximum time an individual can spend in prison for a nonviolent property crime. AB 342 provides no offer of rehabilitation, no explanation for requesting longer sentences for nonviolent property crimes, and no indication that this increase in prison time serves any purpose but to further incarcerate individuals.

We also worry about the impact of this bill on the incarceration of youth, particularly youth of color. According to the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics, the majority of vehicle thefts, including commercial vehicles, is committed by youth or young adults ages 15 to 25. Current Wisconsin law already allows judges to sentence convicted commercial vehicle thieves to 3 years to 10 years in prison depending on the classification of felony. This bill increases each classification, resulting in potential prison times of 6 to 12 ½ years. This bill is punitive, and it will result in more youth and young adults in our criminal justice system.

We ask you to vote against AB 342. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Carousel Bayrd, our Policy and Partnership Coordinator, at (608) 395-2196.

Sincerely,



Vanessa McDowell
CEO

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca



YWCA Madison

101 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 100 | Madison | WI 53703

P 608.257.1436

F 608.257.1439

ywcamadison.org