

February 8, 2022



ACLU of Wisconsin

Comments on Senate Bill 595

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Chair Waggaard and Members of the Committee:

While the ACLU recognizes the importance of closing Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake facilities, we are concerned about the siting criteria used for the Milwaukee location. The establishment of a youth facility in Milwaukee county should not come at the expense of the Felmers Chaney Center. The Chaney site provides important pre-release services to Milwaukee men, and these services are essential to successfully and fully reintegrating formerly incarcerated individuals into their communities. We call for further investments to be made in community services, wrap-around care, and treatment, alternatives, and diversionary care so that all Milwaukeeans -- youth and adults -- can be rehabilitated in their own communities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and the opportunity to provide comments.