

RESOLUTION TO MOVE 17 YEAR OLDS BACK INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE  
SYSTEM

WHEREAS WISCONSIN IS ONE OF ONLY NINE STATES WITH 17 YEAR OLDS IN THE  
ADULT CORRECTIONS SYSTEM, AND

WHEREAS 98% OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY 17 YEAR OLDS ARE INSIGNIFICANT OR  
NOT CONSIDERED SERIOUS, AND

WHEREAS 10,000 17 YEAR OLDS MOVE INTO THE ADULT CORRECTIONS SYSTEM  
EACH YEAR RESULTING IN AN ADULT RECORD, AND

WHEREAS HAVING AN ADULT CRIMINAL RECORD WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT  
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES, SUCH AS COLLEGE OR EMPLOYMENT, AND

WHEREAS BRAIN DEVELOPMENT FOR 17 YEAR OLDS IS NOT COMPLETE IN THE  
AREA OF RECOGNITION OF LONG TERM IMPACT OF DECISIONS, AND

WHEREAS RESULTS OF STATES MOVING 17 YEAR OLDS BACK INTO THE JUVENILE  
SYSTEM HAVE SHOWN REDUCED RECIDISM AND COSTS, AND

WHEREAS THERE HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN ANY DECREASE IN PUBLIC SAFETY  
WITH ADULT HANDLING, AND

WHEREAS OUTAGAMIE COUNTY HAS, ON A TRIAL BASIS, TREATED 54 17  
YEAR OLDS IN THE JUVENILE SYSTEM, AND HAS HAD GOOD SUCCESS WITH NO  
REPEAT INCIDENTS, AND LITTLE OR NO ADDITIONAL COSTS. THE JUVENILES ARE  
MAKING RESTITUTION AND GETTING TREATMENT, AND

THEREFORE, THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD URGES THE WISCONSIN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE LEGISLATION TO MOVE 17 YEAR OLDS BACK  
INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

TOM WIDENER

DISTRICT NINE

WHEREAS OUTAGAMIE RESULTS ALSO SHOW FEW 17 YEAR OLDS  
INVOLVED