



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

January 30, 2017

Justin Tolomeo, Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
3600 S. Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235

Dear Agent Tolomeo,

As you know, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been investigating claims of wrongdoing at Wisconsin's Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Correctional Facilities for well over a year.

The claims of abuse and mistreatment at these facilities are deeply concerning to everyone, and me, personally, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. Unfortunately, to date, Wisconsin legislators are only aware of allegations that have been discovered by the press, or via lawsuit. This puts legislators looking to enact positive change in a difficult position. We are hamstrung and left responding to accusations instead of facts. This is not an effective way to evaluate our juvenile correctional facilities, potentially advocate for change or legislate.

As a former law enforcement investigator, I understand the need to let an investigation run its course. I understand that releasing information prematurely can jeopardize the investigation, by prejudicing witnesses, victims, and potential jurors. I want to emphasize that I do not wish to risk the work you have done or threaten any potential criminal or civil charges that may arise from your investigation.

That being said, I hope you can understand that as legislators we have an obligation to ensure the alleged wrongdoing does not reoccur. To do so, we must deal in facts of what has occurred, not just allegations.

Over the last year, I presume that your investigation has discovered the facts about the problems at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. Neither the Legislature nor the public should be left guessing about what has occurred, whether the incidents were isolated or systematic, or whether there were a few bad actors, or whether the whole system is at fault. Unfortunately, those answers are contained only in your investigation, not discovered sporadically through the press or lawsuits.

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Agent Tolomeo, we need answers. Answers only your investigation can provide. I do not wish to pressure you into wrapping up your investigation prematurely. However, as decision makers who can mandate change, time is of the essence. We cannot allow children to be subjected to misconduct and abuse. I know you understand that.

I hope to learn more about the status of your investigation into Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. To the extent you are able, I hope you will be able to share the facts you have learned. Frankly, I and others, need this information to make informed decisions about juvenile correctional facilities. I will keep our conversation as confidential, or as public as you like.

Therefore, at your earliest convenience, I ask you discuss your investigation with me. I can be reached at my office, 608-266-1832, or on my personal cell phone at [XXX-XXX-XXXX].

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,

Van Wanggaard
State Senator
21st District