



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 19, 2016

Contact: Laura Smith, 608.266.5504

Rep. Barca Statement on Ending of Lincoln Hills John Doe Probe

MADISON – Today, Assembly Democratic Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) released the following statement upon learning that the state has not renewed its John Doe probe into wrongdoing at the youth correctional facilities Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake:

“As public officials our number one goal must be to protect our children and most vulnerable. It is extremely disturbing, given the gravity of the offenses, to learn that the Attorney General and District Attorney have not renewed the state’s John Doe investigation.

“We must retain all options to root out corruption and potential wrongdoing at our youth correctional facilities, and it is also vitally important to gain insights from these investigations to help point out possible corrective actions to protect our children. It is highly questionable whether federal investigations will be as involved in developing long term solutions.

“I am calling on the Attorney General and Lincoln County District Attorney to act to keep the John Doe investigation open until this investigation is fully resolved. The state should remain vigilant, in concert with the federal investigation, as there also is an element of timeliness in responding, understanding that federal investigations can at times carry on for years.

“When Republicans passed the bill changing John Doe investigations, it seemed apparent they were trying to protect themselves and their cronies from prosecution. They must renew this John Doe investigation to remove any perception of protecting their administration and ensure any corruption and wrongdoing are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

###