



Milwaukee County Board

Health & Human Needs Committee

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COUNTY BOARD URGES GOVERNOR DOYLE TO CONVENE TASK FORCE TO HELP EMPLOY MORE MEN AND FATHERS OF COLOR

County could serve as catalyst to building employment for men completing rehabilitation

Milwaukee, WI –Last week, the Milwaukee County Board unanimously endorsed a resolution urging Governor Doyle to convene a task force to seek funding for work/welfare reform efforts for men, particularly fathers and males of color. The bill was brought to the forefront by the Health and Human Needs Committee.

“While the Wisconsin Works W-2 program has been a huge help to women and children in our state, we need to identify more equitable funding sources to assist men of color, especially for those who are returning to society after incarceration,” said Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Chairperson of the Health and Human Needs Committee. “Men coming out of the prison system have the difficult task of finding employment. We should spend more on rehabilitating these men to help them become taxpaying citizens,” said Supervisor James G. White, who Chairs the County Board's Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee.

“The employment situation for African-American and Hispanic males in Milwaukee County is dismal,” Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., said. “We urge Governor Doyle to convene this task force and identify these funding sources.”

Milwaukee County can also benefit from these efforts. “Males who obtain and maintain jobs are less likely to commit violent crimes and abuse alcohol or other drugs,” said Supervisor Peggy West, Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Needs Committee. “They are also likely to require safety net services provided by Milwaukee County, including mental health and child support enforcement services.”

“Strengthening the employment levels among men of color in Milwaukee County will lead to a more productive society and promote positive change in many families,” Supervisor Toni M. Clark added. “We could serve as a model for other counties in Wisconsin.”

Combined, African-Americans and Latino/Hispanic individuals make up about 37 percent of the County's population.