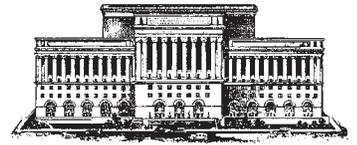




COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# Milwaukee County

**John F. Weishan, Jr.**  
Supervisor, 16th District



Dear 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Residents,

I am writing you today to discuss a very important issue affecting our area.

The issue is the proposed changes to the Milwaukee County Mental health system by 15th District Representative Joe Sanfelippo and State Senator Leah Vukmir.

The proposed changes in Assembly bill AB 718 / SB 565 are of great concern and I hope you will take the time to go [www.county.milwaukee.gov/weishan](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/weishan) website to review the information.

This is not a Milwaukee County only problem. Patients at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex will be and have already been placed in group homes in surrounding counties. This bill will only increase the pressure on staff to place patients in questionable conditions without adequate support.

You and your neighbors may find yourself in the position of having a mini mental health facility placed in your community without your approval and without the ability to challenge these decisions.

I encourage you to read the proposed bill at [www.county.milwaukee.gov/weishan](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/weishan) to get a clearer understanding of the issue and how it will affect your local neighborhood. Along with the bill you will see other articles related to the issue of mental health in Milwaukee County.

Points of concern:

- Unelected /Unaccountable Board of Directors.

The proposed Mental Health Board will all be political appointments with no direct connection to the patients or community that will be affected.

- Staffing cost and compensation of the Mental Health Board of Directors.

There are no limits in the bill related to staffing or compensation.

- What is the definition of community options?
- How will concerned citizens be able to challenge the placement of people or facilities in their community?

No process is defined in the bill. How will patients with a history of violence be addressed? How will facility operators with code violations or operational problems be dealt with?

- Funding for current and future cost.

The bill places the cost of running the Mental Health facilities on the property tax, along with a convoluted formula of limits that brings into question the long-term ability to deliver services.

We all want to provide the best care for people who have the misfortune of dealing with mental health issues.

To improve the quality of life, every effort should be made to make it possible for those suffering with mental health issues to live in the community. But we must also understand that we have an obligation to make sure the safety of our communities and the patients are not put at risk.

The current bill does not address safety and will not provide the accountability the taxpayers require.

After reviewing the bill and related material please call State Representative Sanfelippo at (608)266-0620 or (888)534-0015 and State Senator Vukmir at (608)266-2512 and ask that AB718/SB565 be withdrawn.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Weishan Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John F. Weishan Jr.  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 16<sup>th</sup> District.