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*Linking faith communities across Wisconsin to work for Justice*

**WISDOM**

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## **Revocations briefing**

Wisconsin's current revocation process is at odds with common sense approaches to justice. Crimeless revocation — the practice of re-incarcerating people on probation, parole, or extended supervision for infractions that do not involve new convictions — is more than significant. It is a failed policy, a waste of money, and an embarrassment to Wisconsin. Wisconsin incarcerates 3,000 people each year for crimeless revocations. The average time served for a crimeless revocation is 18 months. Over 4,500 people in Wisconsin prisons are there for a revocation without a new conviction.

Wisconsin temporarily holds thousands of other people each year at county jails and Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF), who eventually do not get revoked, while the Department of Corrections investigates allegations of rule violations.

Seven states enacted policies more than five years ago that enabled them to close prisons and greatly reduce both levels of re-incarceration for revocations and rates of violent crime. These states reinvested resources saved into programs that helped to build safer, stronger, and healthier communities. Wisconsin cannot afford to wait any longer to enact similar policies. It is time to transform the state's unreasonable revocation process and reinvest resources in the communities that have been the most disproportionately harmed by mass incarceration.

Actions to be taken:

1. Direct Community Corrections to fully implement the policies passed by the legislature than call for graduated sanctions for technical violations of supervision, as a replacement for incarceration.
2. Move to eliminate incarceration as a response to alleged and proven "technical violations" of the rules of supervision.
3. Reinvest the money saved by not incarcerating people for revocations or revocation "holds" to community-based programs that will help people with jobs, housing, treatment and peer support.
4. Work with the legislature to cap probation, parole and extended supervision sentences to one year, except in rare circumstances.

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