

DOC Child Abuse Cover-up Continues as GOP Ignores Reports

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/boy-in-doc-s5.jpg>



Media reports reveal that since February 2012, state officials at the highest levels have known of attacks and sexual assaults at Lincoln Hills School for Boys without either contacting or fully disclosing the details to county officials, family members of victims and even law enforcement. Senate Republican legislators now shirk legal responsibility to investigate.

MADISON – The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel [reported](#) Sunday that in repeated cases stretching back at least four years, state officials now admit they don't know whether anyone bothered telling parents and local officials about assaults on teenagers at a troubled prison. It was a systemic failure that Gov. Scott Walker's administration initially blamed on front-line staff alone.

Since at least February 2012, state officials at the highest levels have known of attacks and [sexual assaults](#) at Lincoln Hills School for Boys without either contacting or fully disclosing the details to county officials, family members of victims and even law enforcement.

The pattern of not sharing glaring problems continued for years, according to leaders in two counties, state officials, former Lincoln Hills staff and a parent of a juvenile inmate. Meaningful change came only after the public learned late last year of a [massive federal and state investigation](#) at the Northwoods prison and the sister facility on its campus, Copper Lake School for Girls.

Republican legislators responsible for overseeing child safety laws have ignored these child abuse reports and failed to hold Gov. Walker's administration accountable for the growing child abuse crisis at Lincoln Hills. Despite legal requirements to review annual child abuse reports, conduct public hearings and submit recommendations to Gov. Walker's administration, Senate Republicans have refused to do their job and are now operating in violation of Wis. Stat. §46.981(7).

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