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For Immediate Release

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## MacIver Institute Thanks Grover Norquist, Legislators for Discussing Important Criminal Justice Reforms

[Madison, Wisc...] Legislative leaders from both sides of the aisle in Wisconsin came together on Tuesday for an important discussion on criminal justice reforms. Under the leadership of Rep. Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield), Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and Sen. Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon), Wisconsin is moving toward a criminal justice system that not only is more effective but more efficient for taxpayers.

To push the conversation forward, The John K. MacIver Institute for Public Policy invited Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform and a leader of the Right on Crime movement, to speak with legislators about the significance of these policy ideas.

Norquist highlighted multiple Right on Crime reforms, including the need to give judges the ability to try nonviolent 17-year-old offenders in juvenile court, instead of forcing them into adult court. Research published by the MacIver Institute shows this has proven to lower recidivism rates among young adults in other states.

Rep. Hutton, Sen. Taylor and Department of Corrections Secretary Ed Wall all spoke at the event, in addition to Norquist. It was also attended by a bipartisan group of legislators including Rep. Mandela Barnes (D-Milwaukee), Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Fred Kessler (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Dean Knudson (R-Hudson), Sen. Frank Lasee (R-De Pere), Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette), Sen. Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville), Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) and many others.

After the policy briefing, Brett Healy, President of the MacIver Institute, released the following statement:

*"It is great to see such enthusiasm for criminal justice reform in Wisconsin. The Right on Crime initiative is about finding ways to make our neighborhoods safer by reducing recidivism and crime in a cost-effective way.*

*"This is an important conversation that we need to have in Wisconsin. Instead of forcing nonviolent 17-year-old offenders automatically into adult court, research shows they are less likely to commit a crime again if they go through the juvenile system. Giving judges the ability to make that decision on a case-by-case basis would likely lead to lower recidivism rates, and overall savings to taxpayers.*

*"We at the MacIver Institute thank Grover Norquist for taking the time to come to Wisconsin to discuss these issues. It is our hope that Grover's message will spur a genuine, non-partisan effort to reform the criminal justice system here in Wisconsin in a way that reduces crime and saves taxpayers money."*