RESOLUTION: Support Increased County Child Support Funding

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, Winnebago County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program for the purpose of providing services to Winnebago County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS, our children’s well-being, economic security, and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Child Support Agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children’s lives, and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, The Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin’s future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children’s well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is cost-effective, collecting an average of $5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected $934 Million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistant programs; and

WHEREAS, child support agencies save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, state funding for child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level, while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Winnebago County’s Child Support Agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS, new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match in which every $1 of state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) grants invested in child support programs generates $2 in federal matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by $1.5 Million General Purpose Revenue (GPR) grants in each fiscal year of the 2019-2021 Wisconsin state budgets, which will generate approximately $3 Million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of the Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
State Senators and State Representatives representing Winnebago County constituents, the Secretary of the
Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and each of Wisconsin’s 72 counties
for consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: 9-0
Vote Required for Passage: Majority of Those Present

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of ______________________, 2019.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive