



Enrolled No. R162-041

RESOLUTION

File No. 18-19/068

- SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING-

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Eau Claire 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, Eau Claire County's 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 incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.76 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 assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, Child support agencies help 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 county 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 Eau Claire 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. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2 in federal matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Eau Claire County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

ADOPTED: October 16, 2018

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk