

1 Resolution No. 502 - 18

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3 Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight
4 Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services
5 System
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7 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-
8 supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the
9 Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child
10 Protective Services (DMCPS); and
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12 WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child
13 abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-
14 home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with
15 federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its
16 obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and
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18 WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and
19 practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload
20 and costs; and
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22 WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought
23 Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the
24 system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and
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26 WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of
27 financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county
28 contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and
29 Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses
30 and increase staffing; and
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32 WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system
33 is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and
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35 WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family
36 Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing
37 caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of
38 staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what
39 counties can sustain within available resources; and
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41 WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level
42 oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload
43 standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs

1 and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance
2 concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing
3 and long-term stability; and
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5 WHEREAS, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-
6 administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS
7 caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding
8 needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS
9 workloads manageable; and
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11 WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow
12 the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while
13 shifting the burden to property taxpayers.
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15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marinette County Board of
16 Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and
17 Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million
18 annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase
19 staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County
20 Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its
21 obligations; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the
24 state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to
25 review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process
26 and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to
27 emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor
30 Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson,
31 Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the
32 Wisconsin Counties Association.
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34 Approved this 30th^h day of October 2018 by a majority vote of a quorum of the
35 Marinette County Board.
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40 MARK ANDERSON, Chair

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44 KATHY BRANDT, County Clerk

45 Submitted by: Health and Human Services Board – 10/10/2018

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Marinette County Finance Department

Fiscal Impact Statement

Number 502-18

Ordinance

Resolution

**REQUEST INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM**

Fiscal Impact Statement:

This resolution is in support of the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) request to increase the State of Wisconsin, Department of Children and Family (DCF) aids allocation by \$30 million annually in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget. There is no fiscal impact to the County.

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Laura Mans

Laura Mans
Interim Finance Director

September 18, 2018

Date