Resolution No. 45 - 11/18
Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Funding for County Child Support Agencies

Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

WHEREAS, Walworth County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, providing services to Walworth 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, Walworth 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 non-custodial 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 second in the nation for collecting child support; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly 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 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 assistance; 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 Walworth County’s Child Support Agency, which 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 Walworth 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 the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Walworth County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Nancy Russell  
County Board Chair

Kimberly S. Beshey  
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Action Required: Majority Vote __ X __ Two-thirds Vote ____ Other ____

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.  
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

David A. Bretl  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This resolution ordinance  
Adopted, Roll Call/Vote  
Rejected/Referred/Laid  
Ayes: Nays:

Date: November 5, 2018
Policy and Fiscal Note
Resolution No. 45 - 11/18

I. Title: Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Funding for County Child Support Agencies

II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement: The purpose of this resolution is to urge the State of Wisconsin to increase funding for county child support agencies.

III. Budget and Fiscal Impact: Adoption of this resolution will not impact the County budget.

IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:

   Committee: Executive Committee       Meeting Date: October 15, 2018
   Vote: 4-0

   Committee: Health and Human Services Board       Meeting Date: October 17, 2018
   Vote: 9-0

   County Board Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

David A. Bretl       Date
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen       Date
Deputy County Administrator – Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.