

Resolution No. 45 - 11/18

Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Funding for County Child Support Agencies

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

2

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

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

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11 **WHEREAS**, Walworth County's Child Support Agency ensures that parents take responsibility
12 for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their
13 children's lives and provides services to both custodial and non-custodial parents; and,

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

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19 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked second in the nation
20 for collecting child support; and,

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

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25 **WHEREAS**, County child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support during 2017,
26 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and,

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

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

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36 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional State
37 funding; diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and,

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39 **WHEREAS**, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Walworth County's Child
40 Support Agency, which could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services
41 and reduced child support collections; and,


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1 **WHEREAS**, new State investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match;
2 every \$1 of State GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2 in federal matching
3 funds.
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5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
6 respectfully requests that State funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$1.5
7 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin State budget, which will generate
8 approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding each year; this investment will ensure that
9 counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

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11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of
12 this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State
13 Representatives representing Walworth County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of
14 Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

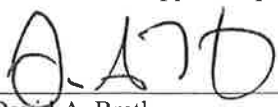
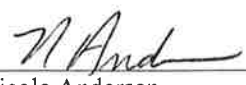
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16 
17 _____
18 Nancy Russell
19 County Board Chair

20 
21 _____
22 Kimberly S. Bushey
23 County Clerk

24 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:

	<u>10/18/18</u>		<u>10/16/18</u>
David A. Bretl	Date	Nicole Andersen	Date
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel		Deputy County Administrator - Finance	

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

This Resolution Ordinance
Adopted: Roll Call/U.C. Voice
Rejected/Referred/Laid
Ayes: Noes: Abs:
Date November 5, 2018

