

RESOLUTION NO. 80-2018-2020 - AMENDED

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

**RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING**

- WHEREAS: Portage County Child Support Services administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Portage 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: Portage County Child Support Services 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 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for collecting current 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 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 Portage 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 Portage 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.

IT IS 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 Portage County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

Date: November 20, 2018

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

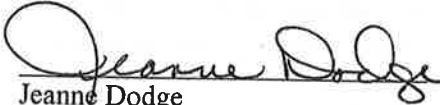
Date: October 8, 2018

  
Chris Doubek, Chair


  
Dave Medin

*Excused*  
Gerry Zastrow, Vice Chair

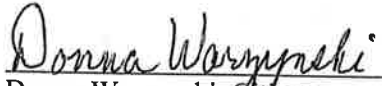
  
Bob Gifford

  
Jeanne Dodge

*Excused*  
Dr. Joseph Jarabek, Citizen

  
Chai Moua

  
Jim Clark, Citizen

  
Donna Warzynski, Citizen

PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

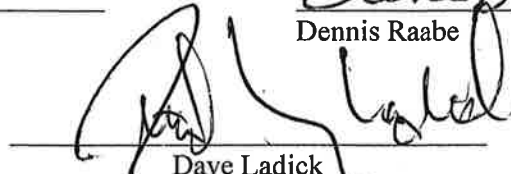
Date: October 15, 2018

  
Jeanne Dodge, Chair

  
Jim Gifford, Vice-Chair

  
Larry Raikowski

  
Dennis Raabe

  
Dave Ladick

