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DUNN COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
RESOLUTION NO. 14

**Urging the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor to Enact  
Legislation to Increase Medicaid Reimbursement Rates**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor to provide sufficient Medicaid funding for nursing facilities in the 2019-21 state budget to address the "Medicaid deficit" currently facing Wisconsin nursing facilities, allowing them to fill staffing deficits and ensure quality care for the Medicaid recipients residing in the state's nursing facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Dunn County's State Representatives and State Senators, members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and Governor Tony Evers.

Offered this 16th day of January, 2019, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE NEIGHBORS OF DUNN  
COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: January 16, 2019

Elton Christopherson  
Elton Christopherson, Chair

ATTEST:

Julie A. Wathke  
Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Nicholas P. Lange  
Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

**Budget Impact:** Adoption of this Resolution will not result in any change in the 2019 budget.

**Background Information:** Approximately 65% of nursing home residents in Wisconsin are Medicaid recipients. In the 2016-2017 payment year, the difference between the total costs of the care that facilities provided to their Medicaid residents and the Medicaid reimbursement they received for providing that care (the "Medicaid deficit") was \$352.5 million. Wisconsin nursing facilities, on average, lose \$63.04 per day for each Medicaid recipient they serve, increasing substantially over the past several years.

Approximately 99% of the nursing facilities in the state's database received Medicaid payments in 2016-17 that failed to meet the cost of the care provided to their Medicaid residents. Direct care costs represent approximately 49% of the "Medicaid deficit." A May 2017 national study ranked Wisconsin's Medicaid nursing home payments as the worst in the United States when comparing payment rates to allowed Medicaid costs incurred by nursing facilities.

Wisconsin nursing and assisted living facilities currently are in the throes of a workforce shortage crisis, with one out seven caregiver positions currently vacant. There is a direct correlation between staffing and quality of care. Medicaid underfunding and the strict limitations on increasing local tax revenues, severely limit the ability of county-owned nursing facilities to compete in a tight labor market to recruit and retain qualified and caring staff.