WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin’s child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system’s ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion’s share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; in Barron County in 2013, the State share was $623,523.16 (29.22%), the County share was 1,510,118.00 (70.78%) and in 2017 the State share was 640,188.00 (18.98%), the County share was 2,732,722.27 (81.02%); and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin’s child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources, in 2013 Barron County children’s out of home care costs were $948,244 and in 2017 children’s out of home care costs were $1,212,829 an increase of 28%; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload
Resolution Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin’s Child Protective Services System

WHEREAS, along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin’s peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin’s CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Health & Human Services Board on November 26, 2018, on a vote of 9 - 0 with Bartlett, Fladtlen, Heil, Knutson, Kolpack, Moen, Muminovic, Pannier and Skoug voting in favor and no members voting against.

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on December 5, 2018, on a vote of 9 - 0 with Okey, Bartlett, McRoberts, Heinecke, Rindsig, Hanson, Thompson, Buchanan and Horstman voting in favor and no members voting against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barron County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by $30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin’s CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 2**

Resolution Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

OFFERED THIS 14th day of January, 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ( )</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vote required for passage: Majority (X)</td>
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<td>2/3 Entire Board (20) ( )</td>
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| Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( ) |
| Grant ( ) Contingency ( )                        |
| Other (X) Details: N/A                          |

Fiscal impact:
- Current year total amount: $ - 0 -
- Future years total amount: $ - 0 -
- Effect on tax levy – current year: $ - 0 -
- Effect on tax levy – future years: $ - 0 -

Fiscal impact reviewed by:

- Jodi Busch, Finance Director

Approved as to form by:

- Jeffrey Fouch, Administrator
- John Muench, Corporation Counsel

Karolyn Bartlett, Chair
Health & Human Services Board

Louie Okey, Chair
Executive Committee

(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)

Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed ( ) Tabled ( )

Motion: (Skinner/Moen) to approve both resolutions as a consent agenda. Carried.