

DUNN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION NO. 61

**Requesting the Wisconsin Counties Association to Include Support
for Increased Annual Funding for the Child Support Program
in its Platform and 2019-2021 Legislative Agenda**

WHEREAS, The well-being, economic security, and success in life for Wisconsin's children are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, The Child Support Enforcement Program that counties provide on behalf of the state provide services including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS, County Child Support Agencies ensure that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents. These services are provided in an incredibly cost-effective way, with an average of \$5.56 in support collected for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, County Child Support Agencies in Wisconsin collected \$934 Million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families, thereby reducing state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, An increase of \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget will generate approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding each year; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has not increased funding for child support activities since 2007 while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations, and the increasing drug epidemic; and

WHEREAS, The legislative agenda of the Wisconsin Counties Association recommends that a greater proportion of the court support services fee be returned to counties for child support services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the Wisconsin Counties Association include in its platform increased funding by the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor of \$1.5 million GPR annually in each fiscal year of the 2019-2020 biennial budget in upcoming state budget, and to actively advocate legislative action through the WCA's 2019-2021 Legislative Agenda.

Offered this 19th day of June, 2019, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

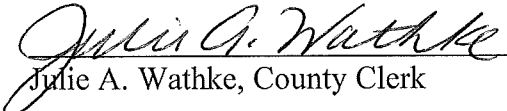
OFFERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: June 19, 2019

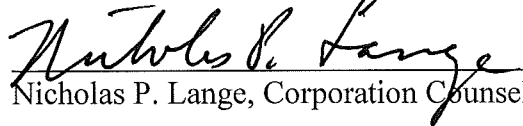


David Bartlett, Chair

ATTEST:



Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk

Approved as to Form and Execution:


Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Approval of this resolution will have no impact on the 2019 budget.

Background Information: State funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased. Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Diminished performance would result in decreased federal funding to Wisconsin, which would lead to decreased funding for Dunn County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections.

The Judiciary and Law Committee supports this resolution being forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors by the Executive Committee. If adopted, this resolution will be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association with a request that it become part of the WCA platform and 2019-2021 Legislative Agenda.