

**OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2015**

RESOLUTION NO. 118—2015-16

Supervisor Iverson moved, seconded by Supervisor Trentlage, for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 118—2015-16 IS ADOPTED.

1. RABEC	YES	13. VAN ASTEN	YES	25. NOOYEN	YES
2. NAGLER	YES	14. DE GROOT	YES	26. DUNCAN	YES
3. GRADY	YES	VANDENHEUVEL	YES	27. CULBERTSON	YES
4. PATIENCE	YES	16. LEMANSKI	YES	28. STURN	YES
5. IVERSON	YES	17. GROAT	YES	29. BUCHMAN	YES
6. STRENN	Absent	18. SPEARS	YES	30. GRIESBACH	YES
7. HAMMEN	YES	19. STUECK	YES	31. THERN	YES
8. KRUEGER	YES	20. THOMAS	YES	VANDERHEIDEN	YES
9. TRENTLAGE	YES	21. THYSSEN	YES	33. AUSTIN	Absent
10. BEHNKE	Absent	22. HAGEN	YES	34. RETTLER	YES
11. MEYER	YES	23. KLEMP	YES	35. MELCHERT	YES
12. McDANIEL	YES	24. PLEUSS	YES	36. SUPRISE	YES
Item 13	Passed (33 Y - 0 N - 0 A - 3 Absent)			Majority Vote	>

RESOLUTION NO.: 118—2015-16

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 Legislation has been proposed which will compromise child welfare best practice. The most
2 significant issue with the proposals is law enforcement involvement in all child welfare
3 cases. The proposed legislation is in sharp contrast to evidence-based practice and creates
4 issues with jurisdiction and confidentiality. The proposals could negatively impact
5 alternative responses such as community and other voluntary services. Additionally, it does
6 not take into consideration the philosophical differences between law enforcement and child
7 welfare agencies.
8

9 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Health and Human Services Committee
10 recommend adoption of the following resolution.

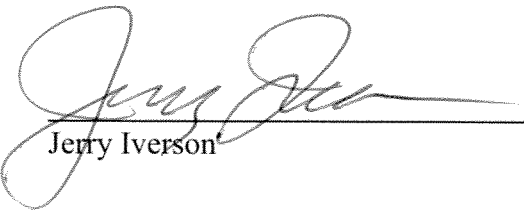
11 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does oppose proposed
12 legislation relating to the referral of cases of suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect to the sheriff
13 or police department, coordination of the investigation of those cases and referral of those cases to the
14 district attorney for criminal prosecution, and


15 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
16 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Health and Human Services Director, the Outagamie County
17 Executive, all Wisconsin counties, and the Outagamie County Lobbyist who will distribute to the
18 Legislature and Governor.


19 Dated this 8th day of December 2015

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21 Respectfully Submitted,

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23 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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28 Jerry Iverson

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Barney Lemanski

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Kevin Behnke

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Patrick Meyer

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Cathy Spears
Cathy Spears

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: December 8, 2015

Signed: Helen Kapler
Board Chairperson

David O'Brien
County Clerk

Approved: 12 10 15

Vetoed: _____

Signed: [Signature]
County Executive

OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 326/ASSEMBLY BILL 429 AFFECTING CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 326/Assembly Bill 429 have been introduced by Senator Robert Cowles and Representative John Macco; and

WHEREAS, the bills relate to the referral of cases of suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect to the sheriff or police department, coordination of the investigation of those cases, and referral of those cases to the district attorney for criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the bills, on their face, might seem favorable, the bills actually compromise child welfare best practice; and

WHEREAS, even though the legislation impacts child welfare practice, the state Department of Children and Families, Office of Children's Mental Health, county child welfare agencies, and child advocacy organizations were not consulted on the legislation; and

WHEREAS, issues with the legislation include the following:

- Law enforcement involvement in all child welfare cases negatively impacts alternative response, community response, and other voluntary services provided to families;
- The legislation is in sharp contrast to evidence-based practice, including trauma-informed care;
- The legislation requires child welfare agencies to "coordinate in the planning and execution of the investigation" in all cases, including screened out cases in which the child welfare agency lacks statutory authority to act;
- The bills require all reports to be referred to law enforcement within 12 hours, allowing for no prioritization of cases;
- The implementation of the legislation has not been thought through, especially when it comes to confidentiality, jurisdictional issues, and the philosophical differences between law enforcement and child welfare agencies; and

WHEREAS, counties and law enforcement in most jurisdictions have a positive working relationship and have entered into Memorandums of Understanding with regard to how local agencies will respond to reports of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, counties have requested that the proponents of the legislation bring all parties impacted by the legislation together so all gain an understanding of the others' needs; and

WHEREAS, counties believe a compromise on the legislation can be negotiated; however, such a meeting has yet to take place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the XXXXXX County Board of Supervisors does hereby oppose Senate Bill 326/Assembly Bill 429; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that XXXXXX County renews the request for a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the legislation in greater detail.