RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING IN THE
WISCONSIN CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION

TO THE MANITOWOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and

WHEREAS, base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families was created in 2009; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased in all counties across the state; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals in Wisconsin has increased by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care in the state has increased from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports in the state has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed in the state with the court has increased 12.5 percent in the state from 2008 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, Manitowoc County’s experience has been consistent with the foregoing state trends; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines by caregivers; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers; and

WHEREAS, the stress of increasing caseloads is taking its toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave the profession; and
WHEREAS, counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already contribute to the human services system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2017-19 state biennial budget, increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; 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 Scott Neitzel, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Dated this 10th day of November 2016.

Respectfully submitted by the
Human Services Board

Rick Henrickson, Chair

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

FISCAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved by Comptroller.

LEGAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved as to form by Corporation Counsel.

I respect the prerogative of the members of the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors to voice their opinions on legislative issues. Therefore, it is my practice to neither approve nor veto a legislative policy resolution that has been enacted by the County Board in order to allow the County Board, acting as the legislative branch of county government, to freely express its sentiment on legislative and public policy issues or to request action by a governmental entity, or both.

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive      Date