

**SYNOPSIS:** Support Increasing the Children and Families Allocation  
**INTRODUCED BY:** Health and Human Services Board

**To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Columbia County:**

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for 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 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, statewide, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014; in Columbia County the number of CPS referrals has increased by 64 percent since 2011 – from 579 referrals in 2007 to 947 in 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports statewide has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015; during the same time period the number of screened-in CPS reports in Columbia County has increased from 279 in 2011 to 306 in 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, Columbia County and other counties throughout the State 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, the leading cause of these increasing caseloads is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines; 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 identify resources to increase the number of child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch that counties already contribute to the human services system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbia County Board of Supervisors 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

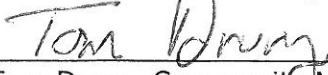
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbia County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Fiscal Note: None

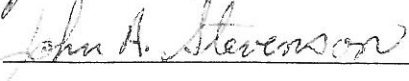
Fiscal Impact: None

  
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Dr. Kenneth Oh, Community Member

  
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Cathy Brunt, Community Member

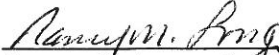
  
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Tom Drury, Community Member

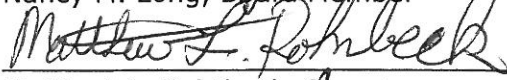
  
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James Brooks, Board Member

  
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John A. Stevenson

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John A. Stevenson, Board Member

  
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Nancy M. Long, Board Member

  
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Matthew L. Rohbeck, Secretary


  
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Kevin Kessler, Vice-Chair

  
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Teresa Sumnicht, Chair

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA  
CERTIFIED COPY**

**I certify that this is a true and exact copy  
of the original of which I am legal custodian  
for the County Clerk of Columbia County.  
Signed by**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk or Deputy County Clerk

10.19.16  
Date