WHEREAS, the 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 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 has increased statewide by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the number of CPS referrals in Green County has increased by 39 percent during that same period; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the statewide 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, 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, a leading cause of these increases 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 child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Green County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, that the board 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.

SIGNED: GREEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Herb Hanson, Chair
Jerry Guth, Vice-Chair
Russ Torkelson
Sandy Horn
Anita Huffman

Beth Luchsinger
Michael Furgal
Kate Maresch
Emily Zarling

LEGAL NOTE: Approved as to form. BDB

STATE OF WISCONSIN )
COUNTY OF GREEN )ss

I, Michael J. Doyle, County Clerk in and for said County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 9-1-16, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on September 13, 2016.

Dated at Monroe, Wisconsin this 13th day of September, 2016.

Michael J. Doyle
Green County Clerk