RESOLUTION - R2019-02-11

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

Re: Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS Oconto County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Oconto County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

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

WHEREAS Oconto County's Child Support Agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of $5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS County child support agencies collected $934 Million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS Child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Oconto County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every $1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates $2 in federal matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by $1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately $3
52 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties can continue to
effectively provide economic support to our children.

55 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to
the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Oconto
County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties
Association for consideration.

Submitted this 21st day of February, 2019.

By: LAW ENFORCEMENT/JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Dennis Kroll, Chair
Lowell “Buzz” Kamke
Don Bartels, Jr.
David Parmentier
Melissa Wellens

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel

Consent Agenda: Yes ☑ No

Adopted by vote:

Ayes 28 Nays 0 Absent 2 Abstain 0 Vacant 1

STATE OF WISCONSIN}
I, Kim Pytleski
County Clerk
do hereby certify
that the above is a true and correct copy of the
original now on file in the office of the County Clerk and
that it was adopted by the Oconto County Board of
Supervisors on this date.

Date: 2.12.19

Kim Pytleski
County Clerk