



RESOLUTION # 32-10/18

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 10-7

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 22
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 7
Vote Req: 0
Other Action:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 2

RE: SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, La Crosse County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to La Crosse 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, La Crosse 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 not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs 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 La Crosse 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.

RE: SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT AGENCIES

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors urges that the 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 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing La Crosse County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no cost to the County.

Date: October 10, 2018

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

| | Reviewed Only | Recommended | Not Recommended | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Co. Admin. | _____ | _____ | _____ | Requested By: Deb Barnes |
| Fin. Director | _____ | _____ | _____ | Date Requested: September 10, 2018 |
| Corp. Counsel | _____ | _____ | _____ | Drafted By: Corporation Counsel |
| Board Chair | _____ | _____ | _____ | |

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 18 Day of October, 2018

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 18th day of October 2018.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk