

**RESOLUTION 2016 – 60**

**Re: Support Increased Funding in the Children and Family Aids Allocation**

**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 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 has increased from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of screened-in CPS reports 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 with the court has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015; 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 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 Vilas County Board of Supervisors in session this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016 that the Vilas 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.

**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.

**SUBMITTED BY: Social Services Committee**

s/ Alden Bauman, Chair

s/ Erv Teichmiller

s/ Tom Maulson

s/ Holly Tomlanovich

s/ Robert Hansen