



# DOUGLAS COUNTY

## COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

Mark Liebaert

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### DOUGLAS COUNTY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Douglas County is to provide cost-effective services, with equal access to all citizens; to continue and enhance partnerships; to responsibly manage our resources and plan for the future.

April 2, 2019

TO: Governor Tony Evers WI Dept. of Administration Secretary  
Wisconsin Counties Association State Representative Nick Milroy  
State Representative Beth Meyers State Senator Janet Bewley

SUBJECT: Douglas County, Wisconsin - Resolution #16-19:  
Child Support Enforcement Program State Funding Increase Supported

Attached is the above referenced Resolution #16-19, certified and adopted by the Douglas County Board of Supervisors at their March 21, 2019, meeting.

Your support for the intent of this Resolution is appreciated.

Best regards,

//Mark Liebaert, Chair  
Douglas County Board of Supervisors  
mark.liebaert@douglascountywi.org

ec: Rebecca Severson, Douglas County Child Support Director

ML/pt

Enclosure

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Pomush		
2. Bong		
3. Finn		
4. Clark		
5. Baker		
6. Leino		
7. Glazman		
8. Raunio		
9. Jaques		
10. Quam		
11. Finendale		
12. Lear		
13. Allen		
14. Ryan		
15. Hendrickson		
16. Luostari		
17. Liebaert		
18. Moen		
19. Long		
20. Borgeson		
21. Bergman		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____  Passed <u>  X  </u> Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 11-16-18		

**RESOLUTION #16-19**  
**RESOLUTION BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Subject: Child Support Enforcement Program State Funding  
 Increase Supported

WHEREAS, Douglas County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Douglas 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, Douglas 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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% which went directly to families, 5% reimbursed public assistance programs, and

WHEREAS, child support agencies 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 since 2007 while agency costs have increased steadily due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations, and

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Rev. 11-16-18		

WHEREAS, without additional state funding, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk for diminished performance and reduced federal funding to Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding means less funding for Douglas County's child support agency, and subsequent reductions to child support enforcement staff, services, and 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 Douglas County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased \$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, and will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Douglas County state senators and representatives, Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Administration, and Wisconsin Counties Association.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2019.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)  
 (Fiscal Note: None)

**ACTION:** Motion by Lear, second Raunio, to adopt. Motion carried.