TO:  Governor Walker
     DOA Secretary Scott Neitzel
     Representative Beth Meyers
     Wisconsin Counties Association

SUBJECT: Douglas County Resolution #58-16
         Children and Family Aids Allocation Increased Funding Supported

Attached is above referenced Resolution #58-16, adopted by the Douglas County Board of Supervisors at their September 15, 2016, meeting.

Your support for the intent of this Resolution is appreciated.

Best regards,

Mark Liebaert, Chair
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
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715-395-1493

ML/pt
RESOLUTION #58-16
RESOLUTION BY THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Subject: Children and Family Aids Allocation Increased Funding Supported

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 state-wide has increased by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014, and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals in Douglas County has increased by 19 percent since 2009 – from 751 referrals in 2009 to 898 in 2015, and

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

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care in Douglas County has increased by 94% from 55 in 2009 to 107 in 2015, and

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

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports in Douglas County has increased by 22% from 292 in 2009 to 376 in 2015, and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court state-wide has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015, and
WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court in Douglas County has increased 200 percent from 20 in 2009 to 60 in 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, 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 that the Douglas 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.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2016.

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

ACTION: Motion by Ryan, second Finendale, to adopt. Motion by Hendrickson, second Baker, to amend and sponsor by County Board. Motion carried. Motion to adopt resolution as amended, carried.

Certified by Douglas County Clerk
Susan T. Sandvick
September 16, 2016