

RESOLUTION 68 -2018

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM

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INTRODUCED BY: Health and Human Services Board

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To request the state of Wisconsin to increase funding and oversight reforms for Wisconsin's child protective services system by \$30 million annually in order to meet the Wisconsin CPS system obligations.

FISCAL NOTE: None

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) ; and

WHEREAS: DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention; investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirement and share liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS: In recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS: the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS: the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS: maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS: without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of

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47 caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization
48 of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular
49 policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding,
50 performance, cost sharing, and long-term stability; and

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52 **WHEREAS:** along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with
53 county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for
54 CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of
55 determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant
56 recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and



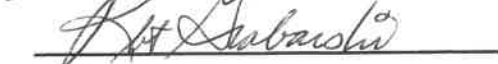
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58 **WHEREAS:** the children with Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow
59 the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention,
60 while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.



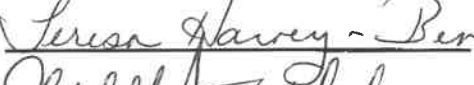
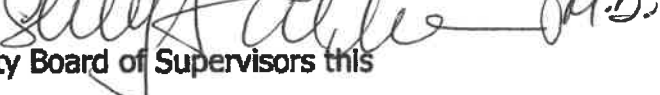
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62 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Adams County Board of
63 **Supervisors** that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids
64 Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million
65 annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase
66 staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin
67 County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS system can
68 meet its obligations; and

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70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Wisconsin Counties Association urges
71 the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative
72 mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the
73 biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing
74 policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs;
75 and

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77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that a copy of this resolution be sent to
78 Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Eloise Anderson,
79 Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the
80 Wisconsin Counties Association.

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82 Recommended for adoption by the Health and Human Services Board this 12th
83 day of November, 2018.

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90 Adopted X
91 Defeated _____ by the Adams County Board of Supervisors this
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Tabled 13th day of November, 2018.

[Signature]
County Board Chair

[Signature]
County Clerk (Deputy)

- Reviewed by Corporation Counsel
- Reviewed by County Manager/Administrative Coordinator

State of Wisconsin
 County of Adams
 This document is a full, true and correct copy
 of the original on file and of record in my
 office and has been compared by me
 Attest: November 13, 2018
[Signature]
 County Clerk

