

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 38-18**

2 **SYNOPSIS: Support Increased State Funding for County Child Support Agencies**
3 **INTRODUCED BY: Judiciary Committee**

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5 **To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Columbia County:**

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7 WHEREAS, Columbia County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on
8 behalf of the State, providing services to Columbia County residents including paternity
9 establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and
10 enforcing and modifying those orders; and,

11 WHEREAS, our children’s well-being, economic security and success in life are
12 enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and,

13 WHEREAS, Columbia County’s Child Support Agency ensures that parents take
14 responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of
15 parents in their children’s lives, and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial
16 parents; and,

17 WHEREAS, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in
18 Wisconsin’s future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has
19 a positive effect on children’s well-being; and,

20 WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the
21 nation for collecting current support; and,

22 WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-
23 effective, collecting an average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program;
24 and,

25 WHEREAS, county child support agencies collected \$934 million in child support
26 during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance
27 programs; and,

28 WHEREAS, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health
29 insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children
30 from public assistance to private insurance; and,

31 WHEREAS, State funding for county child support services has not increased above
32 the 2007 funding level while County agency costs have steadily increased due to growing
33 caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and,

34 WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without
35 additional State funding. Diminished performance would result in reduced Federal funding
36 to Wisconsin; and,

37 WHEREAS, decreased Federal funding would lead to less funding for Columbia
38 County’s Child Support Agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement
39 staff and services and reduced child support collections; and,


40 WHEREAS, new State investments in child support are amplified by a generous
41 Federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2
42 in Federal matching funds.

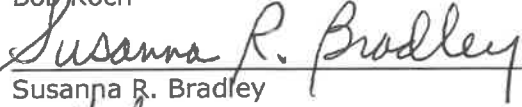
43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Columbia County Board of
44 Supervisors respectfully requests that State funding for county child support agencies be
45 increased by \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget,
46 which will generate approximately \$3 million in additional Federal funding each year. This
47 investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to
48 our children; and,


49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the County
50 Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives
51 representing Columbia County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of
52 Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

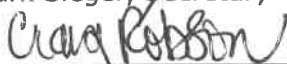
54 Fiscal Note: None.
55 Fiscal Impact: None.

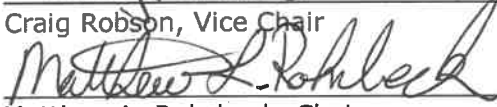
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Bob Koch


Susanna R. Bradley


Mark Sleger, Secretary


Craig Robson, Vice Chair


Matthew L. Rohrbeck, Chair

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA
CERTIFIED COPY

I certify that this is a true and exact copy
of the original of which I am legal custodian
for the County Clerk of Columbia County.

Signed by



County Clerk or Deputy County Clerk

Date