

**Resolution No. 48-11/18**

**Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System**

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Health and Human Services Committee

2

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

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

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13 **WHEREAS**, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice  
14 expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workloads and costs; and

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

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

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

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

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33 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all  
34 counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for  
35 regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative  
36 committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate  
37 funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and

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


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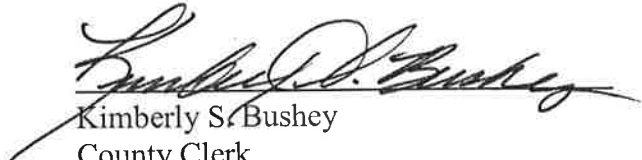
44 **WHEREAS**, the children within the Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current  
45 level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to  
46 property taxpayers.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors does  
2 hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase Children and Family Aids Allocation to  
3 counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a greater  
4 share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards  
5 developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS  
6 system can meet its obligations; and

7  
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state of  
9 Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS  
10 resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate  
11 committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing  
12 system needs; and

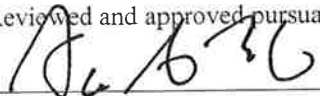

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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott  
15 Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of  
16 Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties  
17 Association.

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23 Nancy Russell  
24 County Board Chair

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28 Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

29 County Board Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

30 Action Required: Majority Vote  X  Two-thirds Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.  
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:  
 10/19  
David A. Bretl Date  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel  
 10/22/18  
Nicole Andersen Date  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance  
If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This Resolution / Ordinance was:  
Adopted: Roll Call / U.C. Vote  
Rejected / Referred / Laid Over  
Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date November 5, 2018

**Policy and Fiscal Note**  
**Resolution No. 48-11/18**

- I. **Title:** Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System.
- II. **Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to support legislation to increase funding and oversight for Wisconsin's CPS system.
- III. **Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this resolution will have the following fiscal impact on the 2018 Budget:

There will be no fiscal impact for the 2018 budget.

IV. **Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

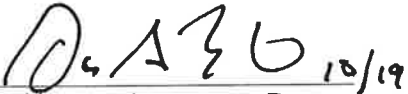
Committee: Health and Human Service


Meeting Date: October 17, 2018

Vote: 9-0

County Board Meeting Date: November 5, 2018

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David A. Bretl                      Date  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Andersen                      Date  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance