



RESOLUTION NO. 30-12-18

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING AND  
OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILD PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES SYSTEM**

**TO THE HONORABLE KEWAUNEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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

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

10 **WHEREAS**, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations  
11 which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and  
12

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the  
23 safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and  
24

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

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

36 **WHEREAS**, along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS  
37 systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload  
38 studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations

1 related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

2  
3 **WHEREAS**, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of  
4 under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property  
5 taxpayers.

6  
7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors duly  
8 assembled this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018, that the Board does hereby request that the state of  
9 Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial  
10 budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase  
11 staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services  
12 Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and

13  
14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state of Wisconsin to  
15 close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all  
16 counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing  
17 policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and

18  
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor-Elect Tony Evers  
20 Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary  
21 Ellen Nowak, Rep. Joel Kitchens, Senator-Elect Andre Jacque, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

  
Kaye Shillin, Chair

  
Mary Ellen Dobbins

  
Virginia Haske

  
Lee Luft

  
Linda Teske

  
Kent Tremel

**Citizen Members:**

- Mark Buchanan
- Julie Janicsek
- Rose Quinlan
- Paul Ravet
- Mary Ann Szydel

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

Jeffrey R. Wisnicky  
Corporation Counsel

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

	Y E S	N O	A B S E N T	A B S T A I N
Augustian, A.	✓			
Cochart, C.	✓			
Cretney, T.	✓			
Dobbins, M.	✓			
Doell, D.	✓			
Haske, V.	✓			
Jahnke, S.	✓			
Kroll, K.	✓			
Luft, L.	✓			
Lukes, J.	✓			
Mastalir, J.	✓			
Olson, D.	✓			
Paape, G.	✓			
Romdenne, T.	✓			
Schmitt, C.	✓			
Shillin, K.	✓			
Teske, L.	✓			
Tremel, K.	✓			
Wagner, C.	✓			
Weidner, R.	✓			
TOTALS	20	0	0	0