

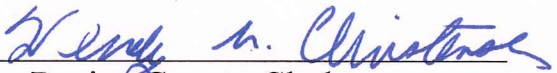


Wendy M. Christensen

County Clerk
730 Wisconsin Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
262-636-3482
fax: 262-636-3491
Wendy.Christensen@racinecounty.com

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Wendy M. Christensen, County Clerk in and for the County of Racine,
State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct
copy of a Resolution adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors on
October 25, 2018.



Racine County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-76

RESOLUTION BY THE HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

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

4 **WHEREAS**, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-
5 administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS
6 caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding
7 needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS
8 workloads manageable; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow
11 the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and disparity of attention, while
12 shifting the burden to property taxpayers.
13

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

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of Supervisors urges
23 the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative
24 mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial
25 budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance
26 to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor
29 Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson,
30 Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, ^{all} area legislators, and the
31 Wisconsin Counties Association.
32

33 Respectfully submitted,

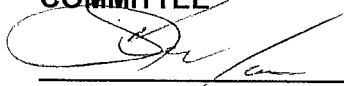
34
35 1st Reading

10-9-18

**HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

36
37
38 2nd Reading

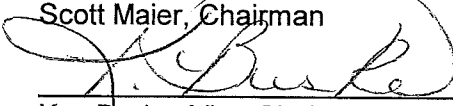
10-25-18



Scott Maier, Chairman

39
40
41 Adopted

yes

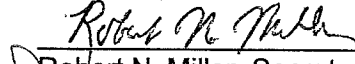


Kay Buske, Vice-Chairman

42 For

43 Against

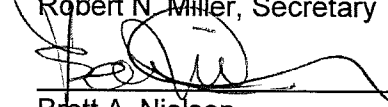
44 Absent



Robert N. Miller, Secretary

45
46 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority


47
48 Prepared by:
49 Corporation Counsel



Brett A. Nielsen



Donald Trottier


Eric C. Hillery

3
4
5
6 The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of
7 Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:

8 Approved:

9 Vetoed:

10
11 Date: 11-8-18

12
13
14 
Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive