

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 8

Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, Barron County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program
3 on behalf of the state, providing services to Barron County residents including paternity
4 establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and
5 enforcing and modifying those orders; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, our children’s well-being, economic security and success in life are
8 enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, county child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support
11 during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, Barron County’s Child Support Agency provides services to children
14 as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish
15 parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children;
16 and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the economic security and social service programs provided by
19 Barron County Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now
20 more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up
23 with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads,
24 inflation and new federal regulations; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd
27 in the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s decreased performance has led to the state losing out on
30 an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019
31 and 2020; and
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33 **WHEREAS**, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2
34 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and
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36 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without
37 additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions
38 to federal funding for Wisconsin; and
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40 **WHEREAS**, decreased federal funding results in less funding for Barron County’s
41 child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and
42 services and reduced child support collections; and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous
45 federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates
46 roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and

47
48 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-
49 effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program;
50 and

51 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Health & Human Services Board
52 on January 25, 2021, on a vote of 11 - 0, with Bartlett, Banks, Heil, Knutson, Kolpack,
53 Moen, Pannier, Albrecht, Skoug, Wenzel and Sampson voting in favor and no members
54 against; and

55 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on
56 February 3, 2021, on a vote of 9 – 0, with Okey, Bartlett, Heinecke, McRoberts, Rindsig,
57 Hanson, Buchanan, Horstman and Nelson (alternate) voting in favor and no members
58 voting against. Thompson was absent.

59
60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Barron County Board of
61 Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be
62 increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget,
63 which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year.
64 This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide
65 economic support to our children.


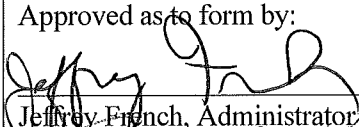

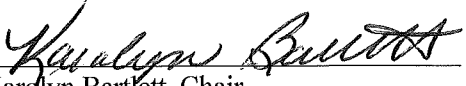
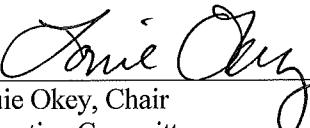
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67 **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the
68 County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State
69 Representatives representing Barron County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department
70 of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

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72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that publication of this resolution may occur
73 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
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OFFERED THIS 15th day of February, 2021.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ 0 - Future years total amount: \$ 0 - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ 0 - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ 0</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p> _____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p> _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p> _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p> _____ Karolyn Bartlett, Chair Health & Human Services Board</p> <p> _____ Louie Okey, Chair Executive Committee</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p>
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