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**Resolution No. 539-21**

**Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

**WHEREAS:** Marinette County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Marinette County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

**WHEREAS:** Our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

**WHEREAS:** County child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

**WHEREAS:** Marinette County's Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

**WHEREAS:** The economic security and social service programs provided by Marinette County Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS:** State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

**WHEREAS:** Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for collecting current support to 5<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019 and 2020; and

**WHEREAS:** An abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS:** Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS:** Decreased federal funding results in less funding for Marinette County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

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

50           **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-  
51 effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.  
52

53           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Marinette Board of Supervisors  
54 respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4  
55 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate  
56 approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure  
57 that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.  
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59           **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County  
60 Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives  
61 representing Marinette County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration,  
62 and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.  
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64           Approved this 23rd day of February, 2021 by a majority vote of a quorum of the  
65 Marinette County Board of Supervisors.  
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68 \_\_\_\_\_  
69 John Guarisco, Chair  
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72 \_\_\_\_\_  
73 Kathy Brandt, County Clerk

74 Recommended: Public Services Committee - February 9, 2021