

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 22**

**Resolution Requesting Elimination of Badger Care Eligibility Cliff**

**TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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2       **WHEREAS**, in addition to Medicaid, Wisconsin also administers BadgerCare  
3 Plus, a similar program for groups of people who need healthcare coverage but who may  
4 not qualify for Medicaid or who need different kinds of services. BadgerCare Plus is also  
5 sometimes informally referred to as just BadgerCare; and  
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7       **WHEREAS**, those individuals who do qualify for BadgerCare or BadgerCare Plus  
8 face a “benefits cliff”, defined as “A benefit cliff occurs, when a public support program is  
9 designed in such a way that, at a certain level of income, a small increase in earnings can  
10 result in a significant loss in eligibility for benefits.” (Source; *Over the Edge: An Analysis*  
11 *of the implications of Benefit Cliffs Within Wisconsin Public Benefit Programs, Workshop*  
12 *in Public Affairs, Spring 2020*, Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs, University  
13 of Wisconsin-Madison); and  
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15       **WHEREAS**, this benefit cliff, in some instances, becomes a barrier for individuals  
16 seeking employment, or seeking better employment; and  
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18       **WHEREAS**, there currently exists in Barron County, approximately six-hundred  
19 (600) full-time positions for which workers are needed; and  
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21       **WHEREAS**, allowing individuals to work productively without harming their  
22 health benefits, not only reduces the cost of a benefit program but also simultaneously,  
23 improves the overall economic activity of a region; and  
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25       **WHEREAS**, the drafting of this Resolution has the support of State Representative  
26 David Armstrong and Barron County Health and Human Services Director Stacey Frolik,  
27 and  
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29       **WHEREAS**, attached to this Resolution are selected pages from the above  
30 referenced source which provided additional details; and

31       **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Health & Human Services Board  
32 on April 26, 2021, on a vote of 10-0, with Bartlett, Banks, Heil, Knutson, Kolpack, Moen,  
33 Pannier, Sampson, Skoug and Wenzel voting in favor and no members voting against; and

34       **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on May 7,  
35 2021, on a vote of 9 - 0, with Okey, Bartlett, Heinecke, McRoberts, Rindsig, Hanson,  
36 Buchanan, Horstman and Nelson (alternate) voting in favor and no members voting  
37 against. Thompson was absent.  
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39       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of  
40 Supervisors does hereby request, with passage of this Resolution, that the Wisconsin State  
41 Legislature and Governor Tony Evers work cooperatively to eliminate the aforementioned  
42 benefit cliff; and

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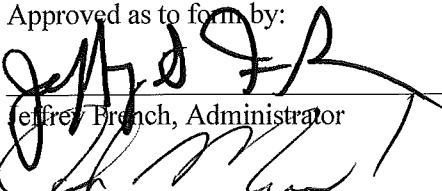
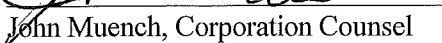
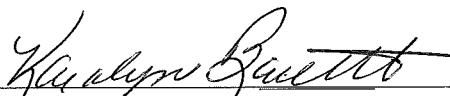

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this benefit cliff be eliminated based on a proportionate sliding fee scale so-that as, individuals and families, earn additional dollars there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount toward their health insurance coverage; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be included and forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, 2021 Annual Convention for consideration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be distributed to our local State Representatives, Governor Evers and other Wisconsin Counties for their consideration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**OFFERED THIS 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.**

<p>Number of readings required: One ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Two ( )</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ( )</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( ) Grant ( ) Contingency ( ) Other ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Details: Not Applicable</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:  _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p> _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p> _____ Karolyn Bartlett, Chair Health &amp; 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 ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Failed ( ) Tabled ( )</p> <p>Chair Okey explained the resolution to the Board. <b>Motion: (Rindsig/Rogers)</b> to approve. Carried.</p>
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