Resolution Requesting Elimination of Badger Care Eligibility Cliff

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, in addition to Medicaid, Wisconsin also administers BadgerCare Plus, a similar program for groups of people who need healthcare coverage but who may not qualify for Medicaid or who need different kinds of services. BadgerCare Plus is also sometimes informally referred to as just BadgerCare; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who do qualify for BadgerCare or BadgerCare Plus face a “benefits cliff”, defined as “A benefit cliff occurs, when a public support program is designed in such a way that, at a certain level of income, a small increase in earnings can result in a significant loss in eligibility for benefits.” (Source; Over the Edge: An Analysis of the implications of Benefit Cliffs Within Wisconsin Public Benefit Programs, Workshop in Public Affairs, Spring 2020, Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison); and

WHEREAS, this benefit cliff, in some instances, becomes a barrier for individuals seeking employment, or seeking better employment; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Barron County, approximately six-hundred (600) full-time positions for which workers are needed; and

WHEREAS, allowing individuals to work productively without harming their health benefits, not only reduces the cost of a benefit program but also simultaneously, improves the overall economic activity of a region; and

WHEREAS, the drafting of this Resolution has the support of State Representative David Armstrong and Barron County Health and Human Services Director Stacey Frolik, and

WHEREAS, attached to this Resolution are selected pages from the above referenced source which provided additional details; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on May 4, 2022, on a vote of 9 - 0, with Okey, Buchanan, Heinecke, McRoberts, Hanson, Bartlett, Thompson, Heller (alternate) and Nelson (alternate) voting in favor and no members voting against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors does hereby request, with passage of this Resolution, that the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor Tony Evers work cooperatively to eliminate the aforementioned benefit cliff; and

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
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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, 2022 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.

OFCERED THIS 16th day of May, 2022.