

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on May
33 4, 2022, on a vote of 9 - 0, with Okey, Buchanan, Heinecke, McRoberts, Hanson,
34 Bartlett, Thompson, Heller (alternate) and Nelson (alternate) voting in favor and no
35 members voting against.

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

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42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this benefit cliff be eliminated based on a
43 proportionate sliding fee scale so-that as, individuals and families, earn additional dollars

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44 there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount toward their health insurance
45 coverage; and

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47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be included and forwarded
48 to the Wisconsin Counties Association, 2022 Annual Convention for consideration; and

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

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

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OFFERED THIS 16th day of May, 2022.

<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:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</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>Motion: (Gores/Schradle) to approve. French answered questions from the Board. Carried.</p>
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