



Resolution

No. 2022-61

WCA Platform Resolution to Address the Statewide District Attorney Staffing Crisis

WHEREAS, Wisconsin District Attorney Offices are experiencing a staffing crisis; *and*,

WHEREAS, Victim Witness professionals are faced with an impossible-to-sustain volume of cases, a huge increase in responsibilities per case, and caseloads where felonies are now outpacing misdemeanors; *and*,

WHEREAS, Victim Witness professional are the only victim service providers obligated by state statute and the Wisconsin Constitution to provide rights and services to crime victims; *and*,

WHEREAS, Victim Witness Assistance Programs are at a crisis point

- The implications for clearing the court backlogs are dire; when Victim Witness Professionals cannot meet their constitutionally-mandated obligations, and victims' rights are not fulfilled, court hearings must be adjourned
- This has a serious impact on public safety; *and*,

WHEREAS, There are several causes for this crisis including Marsy's Law obligations, severity of crimes and COVID-19 crime rate increase / public defender shortage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, assembled this 31st day of May, 2022, does hereby urge the Office of Crime Victim Services with the Department of Justice assess increased time needs associated with new legislation including Marsy's Law and post COVID-19 crime surges.

By Action of the:
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

Dennis M. Pocerlich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Lynn M. Divine, Bayfield County Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2022-61, Volume 29, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 31st day of May, 2022.

Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*