

Resolution No. 11-22

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ELIMINATION OF THE
BADGER CARE ELIGIBILITY CLIFF**

ROLL CALL Board Members	Aye	Nay	Excu.
Olson			
Route			
Warndahl			
Nelson (Chairperson)			
LaBlanc			
Ruck			
Prichard			
Kelly			
O'Connell			
Middleton			
Luke (2 nd Vice Chair)			
Duncanson			
Arcand			
Bonneprise (Vice Chair)			
Demulling			

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: _____

Carried by unanimous voice vote

Motion to Approve Adopted

1st Duncanson Defeated

2nd Middleton

Yes: _____ No: _____ Excu: _____

Reviewed by:

Melba F. Malone, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by:

Vince Netherland, Administrator

Reviewed by:

[Signature], Finance

FISCAL & LEGAL IMPACT:
This is a lobbying resolution and has no impact on the Polk County 2022 Operating and Capital budget.

Certification:

I, Lisa Ross, Clerk of Polk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 15th day of March, 2022 by the Polk County Board of Supervisors.

Lisa Ross
County Clerk, Polk County

Committee: Health & Human Services Board

Recommended

Not Recommended

Neutral

1 **TO THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

2

3 **WHEREAS**, in addition to Medicaid, Wisconsin also administers

4 BadgerCare Plus, a similar program for groups of people who need

5 healthcare coverage but who may not qualify for Medicaid or who need

6 different kinds of services. BadgerCare Plus is also sometimes informally

7 referred to as just BadgerCare; and

8 **WHEREAS**, those individuals who do qualify for BadgerCare or

9 BadgerCare Plus face a "benefits cliff, defined as "A benefit cliff occurs,

10 when a public support program is designed in such a way that, at a certain

11 level of income, a small increase in earnings can result in a significant loss

12 in eligibility for benefits." (Source; Over the Edge: An Analysis of the

13 implications of Benefit Cliffs Within Wisconsin Public Benefit Programs,

14 Workshop in Public Affairs, Spring 2020, Robert M. LaFollette School of

15 Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison); and

16 **WHEREAS**, this benefit cliff, in some cases, becomes a barrier for

17 individual seeking employment, or seeking better employment; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in Polk County, many employers are having a difficult time

19 filling vacancies and recruiting employees; and

20 **WHEREAS**, allowing individuals to work productively without harming their

21 health benefits not only reduces the cost of a benefit program but also

22 simultaneously improves the overall economic activity of a region; and

23 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Polk County Board of

24 Supervisors encourages the Governor, in conjunction with the State

25 Legislators to work cooperatively to eliminate the aforementioned benefit

26 cliff in the BadgerCare Plus program using a proportionate sliding fee

27 scale so that as individuals and families earn additional income, there is a

28 corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount towards their health

29 benefit coverage.

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, this Resolution be included and

31 forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, 2022 Annual

32 Convention for consideration, distributed to our local State

33 Representatives, Governor Evers and other Wisconsin Counties for their

34 consideration.

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Olson