Resolution No. 11-22

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ELIMINATION OF THE BADGER CARE ELIGIBILITY CLIFF

TO THE POLK 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 cases, becomes a barrier for individual seeking employment, or seeking better employment; and

WHEREAS, in Polk County, many employers are having a difficult time filling vacancies and recruiting employees; 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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Polk County Board of Supervisors encourages the Governor, in conjunction with the State Legislators to work cooperatively to eliminate the aforementioned benefit cliff in the BadgerCare Plus program using a proportionate sliding fee scale so that as individuals and families earn additional income, there is a corresponding, but smaller, contribution amount towards their health benefit coverage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this Resolution be included and forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, 2022 Annual Convention for consideration, distributed to our local State Representatives, Governor Evers and other Wisconsin Counties for their consideration.