

1 **RESOLUTION – R2022-10-03**

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3 To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

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5 Re: **Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

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7 WHEREAS: Oconto County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the
8 state, providing a holistic set of services to Oconto County children and their parents, including paternity
9 establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support and establishing health
10 insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

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12 WHEREAS: Child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the state, with
13 county child support agencies serving approximately 347,000 children and collecting roughly \$906 million
14 in financial support for Wisconsin families in 2021; and

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16 WHEREAS: Child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to better educational
17 and behavioral outcomes for children, and have a positive effect on food security, health and housing
18 stability; and

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20 WHEREAS: County child support agencies work closely with both parents to ensure that they have
21 the help they need to be successful, including assistance with finding employment, referrals to other social
22 service programs and right-sizing orders for individuals impacted by substances use disorders or other
23 challenges; and

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25 WHEREAS: State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county
26 agency costs, which have steadily increased due to a high number of caseloads per worker, increased
27 complexity of cases, inflation and new regulations; and

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29 WHEREAS: An abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in
30 federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

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32 WHEREAS: Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional funding.
33 The state has already dropped from 2nd in the nation for the collection of current support in 2016 to 6th in
34 the nation in 2021; and

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36 WHEREAS: Without additional state funds, county child support agencies may need to eliminate
37 positions, further increase caseloads, or reduce services, further impacting federal performance measures,
38 which would result in the loss of additional federal funds; and

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40 WHEREAS: The individuals most impacted by insufficient funding for child support are the children
41 and families served by county child support agencies, who will need to seek out public assistance
42 programming absent the financial security provided by the child support program; and

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44 WHEREAS: State investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every
45 \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds;
46 and

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48 WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective,
49 collecting an average of \$6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

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51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors respectfully
52 requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$5 million GPR in each fiscal
53 year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$9.7 million in additional
54 federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively
55 provide economic support to our children.

56 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the
57 Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Oconto
58 County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties
59 Association for consideration.

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61 Submitted this 20th day of October, 2022.

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63 By: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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65 Dennis Kroll, Chair
66 Don Bartels, Jr.
67 David Parmentier
68 Tracy S. Ondik
69 Al Schreiber

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72 *Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 10.14.2022 - BLE*

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CERTIFICATION

Adopted by an electronic vote: 28 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF OCONTO

I, Kim Pytleski, do hereby certify that the above is true and correct copy of the original now on file in the office of the County Clerk and that it was adopted by the Oconto County Board of Supervisors on this date. DATE: 10/20/2022 Kim Pytleski, County Clerk