



**Resolution No. 50 (2022)**  
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD**  
**SUPPORT FUNDING**

**COVER MEMO**

**TO:** County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ken Witt, County Administrator  
Lisa Plunkett, Child Support Administrator, Child Support

**DATE:** December 6, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association (WCSEA) would like to encourage legislators from every corner of the state to support the request for increased child support funding. There is strength in numbers so the WCSEA is requesting every county to support this resolution.

Legislators listen to their local constituents, and St. Croix County could mean the difference between stagnant child support agency funding and counties obtaining the resources required to provide Wisconsin's families the child support services they need and deserve.



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1           **WHEREAS**, St Croix County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on  
2 behalf of the State of Wisconsin, providing a holistic set of services to St Croix County children  
3 and their parents, including paternity establishment, assistance with finding employment,  
4 obtaining child support, and establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and  
5 modifying those orders; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the state,  
8 with county child support agencies serving approximately 347,000 children and collecting  
9 roughly \$906 million in financial support for Wisconsin families in 2021; and

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11           **WHEREAS**, child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to better  
12 educational and behavioral outcomes for children, and have a positive effect on food security,  
13 health, and housing stability; and

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15           **WHEREAS**, county child support agencies work closely with both parents to ensure that  
16 they have the help they need to be successful, including assistance with finding employment,  
17 referrals to other social service programs, and right-sizing orders for individuals impacted by  
18 substances use disorders or other challenges; and

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

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24           **WHEREAS**, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2  
25 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

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

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31           **WHEREAS**, without additional state funds, county child support agencies may need to  
32 eliminate positions, further increase caseloads, or reduce services, further impacting federal  
33 performance measures, which would result in the loss of additional federal funds; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, the individuals most impacted by insufficient funding for child support are  
36 the children and families served by county child support agencies, who will need to seek out  
37 public assistance programming absent the financial security provided by the child support  
38 program; and

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40           **WHEREAS**, State investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal  
41 match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in  
42 federal matching funds; and

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Vote Confirmation.



Bob Feidler PPJ Chair

11/29/2022

**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [17 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dave Ostness, Mark Carlson
<b>AYES:</b>	Anderson, Long, Leaf, Adams, Berning, Ottino, Feidler, Ostness, Counter, Hansen, Sherley, Tellijohn, Carlson, Barcalow, Swanepoel, VanSomeren, Ramberg
<b>NAYS:</b>	Lisa Lind
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Carah Koch

This Resolution was Adopted by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors on December 6, 2022

Christine Hines, County Clerk