

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 5

Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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2 **WHEREAS**, BARRON COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY administers the
3 Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing a holistic set of
4 services to BARRON COUNTY children and their parents, including paternity
5 establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support and
6 establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those
7 orders; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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43 **WHEREAS**, State investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal
44 match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2
45 in federal matching funds; and
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47 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-
48 effective, collecting an average of \$6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program.
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50 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Health & Human Services Board
51 on January 23, 2023, on a vote of 9 - 1, with P. Anderson, Bartlett, Banks, Heil, Knutson,
52 Kolpack, Moen, Sampson and Wenzel voting in favor and Vaughn voting against.
53

54 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the BARRON COUNTY Board
55 of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be
56 increased by \$5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget,
57 which will generate approximately \$9.7 million in additional federal funding each year.
58 This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide
59 economic support to our children.
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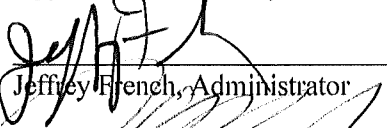
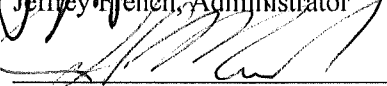
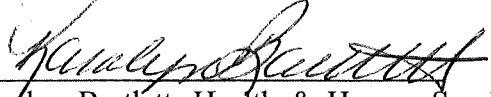
61 **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the
62 County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State
63 Representatives representing BARRON COUNTY, the Secretary of the Wisconsin
64 Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.
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66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that publication of this resolution may occur
67 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
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OFFERED THIS 23rd day of January, 2023.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - Future years total amount: \$ - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p> _____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p> _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p> _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p> _____ Karolyn Bartlett, Health & Human Services Board Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Motion: (Rogers/Hanson) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 25 Yes, 3 No (Effertz, Krug and Vaughn) and 1 Absent (Fall).</p>
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