

## **Resolution No. 37 (2022-2023)**

**Subject:** Support for Increased County Child Support Funding

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

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

WHEREAS, child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to better educational and behavioral outcomes for children, and enhance food security, health and housing stability; and

WHEREAS, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due a high number of cases per child support worker coupled with the increased complexity of cases and new administrative requirements; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

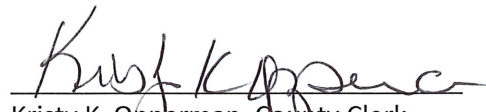
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Waupaca County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for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

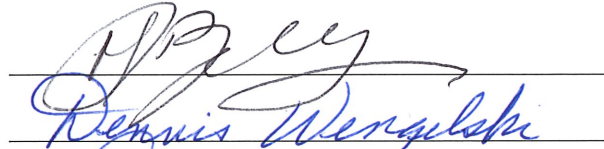
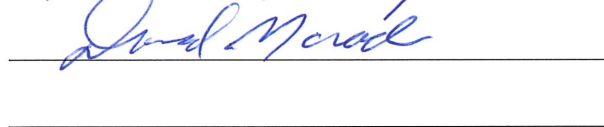
Passed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023

24 Ayes    0 Nays

RECOMMENDED FOR INTRODUCTION BY THE WAUPACA  
COUNTY LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL, ETHICS, SAFETY AND  
SECURITY COMMITTEE

ATTEST:

  
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Kristy K. Opperman, County Clerk

  
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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Diane L. Meulemans, Corporation Counsel

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