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6 **Advisory Resolution Supporting Increased State Funding for County Child Support Programs**
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8 TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Dodge County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of
11 the State of Wisconsin, providing a holistic set of services to Dodge County children and their parents,
12 including paternity establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support and
13 establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and,

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

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

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

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

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

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33 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional
34 funding, as evidenced by Wisconsin dropping from second in the nation for the collection of current
35 support in 2016, to sixth in the nation in 2021; and,

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

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

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45 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal
46 match because every \$1 of State General Purpose Revenue (GPR) invested in the Child Support
47 Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and,
48

1 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective,
2 collecting an average of \$6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program;
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4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Board of Supervisors
5 respectfully requests that State of Wisconsin funding for county child support agencies be increased by
6 \$5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate
7 approximately \$9.7 million in additional federal funding each year, to ensure that Wisconsin counties
8 can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children; and,
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10 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the County
11 Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing
12 Dodge County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin
13 Counties Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 20th day of February, 2023.

Dodge County Judicial and Public Protection Committee:



Paul Conway



Benjamin Priesgen



Rodger Frievalt



Jayme Klockow



Del Yaroch

Fiscal Note: Advisory Only

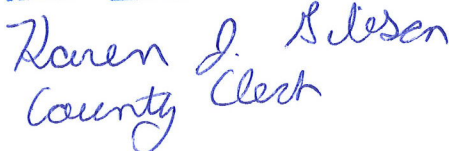
Vote Required: Majority of members present

Resolution Summary: Advisory Resolution Supporting Increased State Funding for County Child Support Programs.

ADOPTED
BY DODGE COUNTY BOARD

FEB 20 2023

AYES 27 NOES 0
ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 6


County Clerk