

2 **RESOLUTION: Support the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Project: "The**
3 **National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers Resolution to Promote**
4 **Investments in Young Children and Families from Prenatal to Age Three"**

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7 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

8 **WHEREAS**, Counties routinely provide an array of programs and services to an estimated 16 million children
9 ages birth to 3 in the United States, and in 2016 about 35 percent of counties had more than a quarter of all children
10 living in poverty; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the most rapid period of brain development occurs within the first years of life with the brain
12 developing faster from birth to age 3 than at any later period in life, building the foundation for all future learning,
13 behavior, and health; when toddlers receive what their growing brains need, they become healthy children who are
14 confident, empathetic, and ready for school and life; programs and policies that support healthy development from
15 birth to age 3 result in better social, economic, and health outcomes and build a more productive workforce that
16 strengthens our economy now and in the future; and

17 **WHEREAS**, parents are a child's most important caregivers and play the lead role in their child's healthy
18 development; at the same time, communities and governments can effectively provide families with an array of
19 comprehensive support at a critical time; and

20 **WHEREAS**, programs and policies should start early to ensure healthy beginnings at birth, support families
21 with infants and toddlers, and make high-quality child care and learning environments more accessible and
22 affordable to all; and

23 **WHEREAS**, high-quality child care is often unavailable or unaffordable for parents who need assistance and
24 many families are not connected to networks or early childhood supports that can offer guidance and confidence to
25 navigate the earliest months and years of their children's lives; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare,
27 and safety of residents in cost-effective ways, especially for the number of children under the age of 3 in this area;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, research shows that when investment is made in the first 3 years of a child's life, the returns for
30 the community are the highest, and the need for more expensive interventions later is reduced; and

31 **WHEREAS**, research shows that high-quality early childhood development programs can deliver an annual
32 return of up to 13 percent per child on upfront costs through better outcomes in education, health, employment, and
33 social behavior, and economists attribute local economic growth and prosperity to high-quality early child care
34 programs; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other national organizations joined the
36 National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT), a project of the Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI), in a
37 groundbreaking partnership to work with communities and states across the country to focus on early childhood
38 development for young children from birth to age 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby supports the Call to Action to prioritize and invest in prenatal-to-age 3 efforts that promote a healthy start at birth; to support families with infants and toddlers, to support high quality care and learning environments; and to utilize the resources available through National Association of Counties and the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers to:

- Be a champion for change by prioritizing and investing in high-quality infant-toddler care so children, families, and communities can thrive;
- Designate an early childhood leader with authority to coordinate and maximize county services to optimize child and family outcomes and leverage additional resources;
- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders, decision-makers, and community stakeholders committed to early childhood investments;
- Take an inventory of local programs and services for children and families;
- Create a plan with measurable outcomes to implement, shift, and enhance evidence-based approaches that promote a comprehensive and equitable continuum of care that begins before birth and spans into adulthood, with specific recommendations for children under age 3 and their families;
- Leverage local, state, and federal investments and explore innovative funding strategies and revenue streams to support early childhood programming; and
- Promote prenatal to age 3 policies, best practices, and cross coordination to improve child and family outcomes as well as service delivery and efficacy in governing through streamlined processes.

Respectfully submitted by:

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Committee Vote: **7-0**

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive