

2 **RESOLUTION: Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state,
7 providing services to Winnebago County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and
8 health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

9 **WHEREAS**, our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who
10 provide financial and emotional support; and

11 **WHEREAS**, county child support agencies collected \$935 million in child support during 2019 and
12 established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County's Child Support Agency provides service to children as well as custodial and
14 non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of
15 both parents in the lives of their children; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the economic security and social service programs provided by the Winnebago County Child
17 Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn
18 caused by COVID-19; and

19 **WHEREAS**, state funding for county child support service has failed to keep up with county agency costs,
20 which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from second in the nation for
22 collection current support to fifth; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in
24 potential federal incentive payments between calendar year 2019 and 2020; and

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

27 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding.
28 Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

29 **WHEREAS**, decreased federal funding results in less funding for Winnebago County's child support agency,
30 which in turn could lead to reduction in child support enforcement staff and services and reduce child support
31 collections; and

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

34 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an
35 average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

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37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors respectfully
38 requests that state funding for county child support be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-
39 2023 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year.

40 This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our
41 children.

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the
44 Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senator and State Representatives representing Winnebago County the
45 Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.
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48 Respectfully submitted by:

49 **JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

50 Committee Vote: **5-0**

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52 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

53 Committee Vote: **14-1**

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

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58 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2021.

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61 _____
62 Jon Doemel
63 Winnebago County Executive

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