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3    **RESOLUTION:    Winnebago County Statement Regarding Informed Choice and Consent to**  
4                                    **Make Personal Healthcare Decisions**

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

7                    **WHEREAS**, on July 30, 2020, Governor Tony Evers issued Emergency Order #1 mandating face coverings  
8 (masks) throughout Wisconsin; and

9                    **WHEREAS**, studies published in Cochrane.org and referenced in a New York Time's article of February 21,  
10 2023, suggested that masks and mask mandates were not as an effective deterrent as indicated by mandates; and

11                   **WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2021, the Wisconsin Supreme Court declared Wisconsin's statewide mask  
12 mandate invalid; and

13                   **WHEREAS**, when dealing with local conditions related to the COVID-19 virus, local authorities should exercise  
14 discretion; and

15                   **WHEREAS**, health decisions are best made by individuals in conjunction with their physician or other health  
16 care provider without bureaucratic overreach; and

17                   **WHEREAS**, the rights of individuals to choose best for themselves and family is a paramount foundation of the  
18 United States Constitution and the Wisconsin State Constitution; and

19                   **WHEREAS**, now, after more than three (3) years, information regarding medicinal and physical intervention has  
20 been published that differs from initial response recommendations; and

21                   **WHEREAS**, according to non-partisan research facility, the Brookings Institution and its March 2022  
22 conclusion, mandates, lockdowns, and school closures from Local, State, and Federal policies have led to "schools  
23 (facing) severe staff shortages, high rates of absenteeism and quarantines, and rolling school closures. Furthermore,  
24 students and educators continue to struggle with mental health challenges, higher rates of violence and misbehavior,  
25 and concerns about lost instructional time." "[T]est score gaps between studies in low-poverty and high-poverty  
26 elementary schools grew by approximately 20% in math" and more; and

27                   **WHEREAS**, some entities are and have considered reinstating these same mandates and restrictions.

28                   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it encourages  
29 individuals to make educated personal healthcare decisions in conjunction with their healthcare advisors, including  
30 physicians and the Winnebago County Board of Health.

31                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors does not intend to impose a  
32 one size fits all approach.

33                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors wishes to communicate:

- 34                   • In the absence of a state or federal order, Winnebago County does not intend to create or enforce  
35 blanket or universal mandates;
- 36                   • Winnebago County shall not voluntarily utilize monetary or personnel resources in support of a State or  
37 Federal created mandate of lockdowns, medicinal or physical devices, absent the freedom of informed  
38 consent;

- Winnebago County believes the freedom of choice to the individual as guaranteed through the United States Constitution and State of Wisconsin Constitution should be paramount;
- Winnebago County's practices beginning in the spring of 2020 relating to the Covid-19 pandemic should not apply to current or future healthcare situations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to Winnebago County's state and federal delegations, Governor Evers, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

*Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.*

Respectfully submitted by:

**SUPERVISOR CONLEY HANSON, DISTRICT 26**

**SUPERVISOR BRIAN DEFFERDING, DISTRICT 6**

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

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Jonathan D. Doemel

Winnebago County Executive