

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 5**

**Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

**TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1  
2       **WHEREAS**, BARRON COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY administers the  
3 Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing a holistic set of  
4 services to BARRON COUNTY children and their parents, including paternity  
5 establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support and  
6 establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those  
7 orders; and  
8

9       **WHEREAS**, Child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in  
10 the state, with county child support agencies serving approximately 347,000 children and  
11 collecting roughly \$906 million in financial support for Wisconsin families in 2021; and  
12

13       **WHEREAS**, Child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to  
14 better educational and behavioral outcomes for children, and have a positive effect on food  
15 security, health and housing stability; and  
16

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

22       **WHEREAS**, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up  
23 with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to high number of caseloads  
24 per worker, increased complexity of cases, inflation and new regulations; and  
25

26       **WHEREAS**, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2  
27 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and  
28

29       **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without  
30 additional funding. The state has already dropped from 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the collection  
31 of current support in 2016 to 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2021.  
32

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

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

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 5**

**Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

43       **WHEREAS**, State investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal  
44 match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2  
45 in federal matching funds; and  
46

47       **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-  
48 effective, collecting an average of \$6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program.  
49

50       **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Health & Human Services Board  
51 on January 23, 2023, on a vote of 9 - 1, with P. Anderson, Bartlett, Banks, Heil, Knutson,  
52 Kolpack, Moen, Sampson and Wenzel voting in favor and Vaughn voting against.  
53

54       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the BARRON COUNTY Board  
55 of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be  
56 increased by \$5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget,  
57 which will generate approximately \$9.7 million in additional federal funding each year.  
58 This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide  
59 economic support to our children.  
60

61       **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the  
62 County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State  
63 Representatives representing BARRON COUNTY, the Secretary of the Wisconsin  
64 Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.  
65

66       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that publication of this resolution may occur  
67 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.  
68

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 5**

**Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

**OFFERED THIS 23rd day of January, 2023.**

<p>Number of readings required: One ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Two ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) General Fund ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Grant ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Contingency ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Other ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Current year total amount: \$</li><li>- Future years total amount: \$</li><li>- Effect on tax levy – current year - \$</li><li>- Effect on tax levy – future years - \$</li></ul> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p>_____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Karolyn Bartlett, Health &amp; Human Services Board Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Failed ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Tabled ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p><b>Motion: (Rogers/Hanson)</b> to approve. Discussion. Carried with 25 Yes, 3 No (Effertz, Krug and Vaughn) and 1 Absent (Fall).</p>
--	--