

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-76**

**RESOLUTION BY THE HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR  
WISCONSIN'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM**

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

**WHEREAS**, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the majority of the financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

**WHEREAS**, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and

3

4 **WHEREAS**, along with DMCPs, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-  
5 administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS  
6 caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding  
7 needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS  
8 workloads manageable; and

9

10 **WHEREAS**, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow  
11 the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and disparity of attention, while  
12 shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

13

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of  
15 Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and  
16 Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million  
17 annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase  
18 staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County  
19 Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its  
20 obligations; and

21

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of Supervisors urges  
23 the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative  
24 mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial  
25 budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance  
26 to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and

27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor  
29 Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson,  
30 Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, all legislators, and the Wisconsin  
31 Counties Association.

32

33

Respectfully submitted,

34

35 1st Reading \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

36

37

38 2nd Reading \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Maier

39

40

41 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Buske, Vice-Chairman

42

43 For \_\_\_\_\_

44

44 Against \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert N. Miller, Secretary

45

46 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

47

48 Prepared by:  
49 Corporation Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett A. Nielsen

50

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Trottier

51

52

53

1 Res No. 2018-76

2 Page Three

3

4

Eric C. Hillery

---

5

6 **The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of**  
7 **Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:**

8 **Approved: \_\_\_\_\_**

9 **Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_**

10

11 **Date: \_\_\_\_\_,**

12

13

14

---

**Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47

Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor, State of Wisconsin  
115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Secretary Eloise Anderson  
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families  
201 East Washington Avenue, Second Floor  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Secretary Ellen Nowak  
Wisconsin Department of Administration  
101 E. Wilson Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 7864  
Madison, WI 53707  
DOASecretarysOffice@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Counties Association  
Attn: Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 900  
Madison, WI 53703  
diedrick@wicounties.org

### Area Legislators:

Honorable (First Name) (Last Name)  
Wisconsin State Senate  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Honorable (First Name) (Last Name A-L)  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Honorable (First Name) (Last Name M-Z)  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708