

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-86

RESOLUTION BY THE FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

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

WHEREAS, Racine County, pursuant to s.59.53(5), Wis.Stats., contracts with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to implement and administer the child and spousal support and establishment of paternity and the medical support liability program (hereinafter “child support program”), provided for by Title IV of the federal social security act, providing services to Racine County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

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

WHEREAS, Racine County’s child support agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children’s lives and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the child support program is an effective investment in Wisconsin’s future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children’s well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s child support program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s child support program is very cost-effective, collecting an average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, the child support program collected \$934 million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the child support program helps save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support agencies has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Lower performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Racine County’s child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

3 **WHEREAS**, new state investments in the child support program are amplified by a
4 generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the child support program
5 generates approximately \$2 in federal matching funds.
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7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of Supervisors
8 respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$1.5
9 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate
10 approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that
11 counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.
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13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County
14 Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives
15 representing Racine County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and
16 the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.
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18 Respectfully submitted,

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20 1st Reading _____

**FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**

21
22 2nd Reading _____

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24 BOARD ACTION
25 Adopted _____
26 For _____
27 Against _____
28 Absent _____

Robert N. Miller, Chairman

Brett A. Nielsen, Vice-Chairman

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30 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Q.A. Shakoor, II, Secretary

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32 Prepared by:
33 Corporation Counsel

Janet Bernberg

John A. Wisch

Mike Dawson

Thomas Pringle

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

46 **Approved:** _____

47 **Vetoed:** _____

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49 **Date:** _____,

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51 _____
52 **Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive**