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From the Director, Department of Child Support Services, requesting state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million in General Purpose Revenue in each fiscal year of the State of Wisconsin’s 2021-23 Budget, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) administers the Child Support Enforcement Program (the Program) on behalf of the State of Wisconsin (the State), providing services to 114,982 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, County child support agencies collected \$935 million in child support during 2019, and established 98,405 health insurance orders for State children; and

WHEREAS, the County’s Child Support Agency (the Agency) provides services to children, as well as custodial and non-custodial parents, that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights, and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS, the economic security and social service programs provided by the Agency are needed by State children and families now more than ever, due to the economic downturn caused by coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with County Agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation, and new Federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, the State’s Program has fallen from second in the nation for collecting current support, to fifth; and

WHEREAS, the State’s decreased performance has led to the State losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential Federal incentive payments between calendar year 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, an abrupt Federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in Federal birth cost recovery matching funds for the State; and

45 WHEREAS, the State's strong performance in child support is at risk without  
46 additional State funding, and further drops in performance would result in reduced  
47 Federal funding to the State; and  
48

49 WHEREAS, decreased Federal funding results in less funding for the County's  
50 Agency, which could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services,  
51 and reduced child support collections; and  
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53 WHEREAS, new State investments in child support are amplified by a generous  
54 Federal match, and every dollar of State General Purpose Revenue invested in the  
55 Program generates two dollars in Federal matching funds; and  
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57 WHEREAS, the State's Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an  
58 average of six dollars and twenty cents in support for every dollar invested in the  
59 Program; and  
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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (IGR), at its meeting  
62 of April 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-219, supporting an additional  
63 \$1.5 million annual increase to child support funding, to support County child support  
64 agencies within the 2019-2021 State budget; and  
65

66 WHEREAS, the Committee on IGR, at its meeting of April 14, 2021,  
67 recommended adoption of File No. 21-228 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,  
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69 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors respectfully  
70 requests that the State of Wisconsin (the State) funding for county child support  
71 agencies be increased by \$4 million in General Purpose Revenue in each fiscal year of  
72 the 2021-23 State budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional  
73 Federal funding each year, and will ensure that counties can continue to effectively  
74 provide economic support to our children; and  
75

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the  
77 County Clerk to the Governor of the State, State Senators, and State Representatives  
78 representing Milwaukee County, and the Secretary of the State Department of  
79 Administration, for consideration.  
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