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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Endorsing the proposed State Biennial Budget provision of \$270 million to support youth
7 by revamping mental and behavioral health services in Wisconsin schools
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10 WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers declared 2023 “the year of mental health”,
11 further urging “The state of mental health in Wisconsin is a quiet, burgeoning crisis that I
12 believe will have catastrophic consequences for generations if we don’t treat it with the
13 urgency it requires” at the State of the State Address in January 2023; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Governor’s proposed Biennial Budget seeks a massive \$500
16 million investment in mental health and behavioral health services including \$270 million
17 dedicated to expanding services in Wisconsin schools; and
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19 WHEREAS, the 2021 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the Department
20 of Public Instruction indicated more than half of high school students reported problems
21 with anxiety, one-third reported dealing with depression, and nearly one-fifth had at
22 least considered suicide, with even higher reported rates for female and LGBTQ+ youth;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is home to the Craig Yabuki Mental Health Walk-
26 In Clinic for children and teens experiencing urgent mental health issues, the first of its
27 kind in the state; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Commission on Youth was reestablished in
30 2022 following adoption of an amendment to Chapter 106 of the Milwaukee County
31 Code of General Ordinances (File No. 22-662); and
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33 WHEREAS, while the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human
34 Services (DHHS) answers to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors as both a
35 policy and budgetary body, but the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board holds the
36 same role of authority over the DHHS - Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Division; and
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38 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to providing accessible, culturally
39 competent behavioral health services to residents that is less reliant on inpatient and
40 institutional care and focused on proven practices like holistic and trauma informed
41 care, stigma reduction and racial equity; and
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43 WHEREAS, despite an overall decrease in suicide deaths in Milwaukee County
44 in 2022, data shows a drastic increase in youth deaths by suicide, of which 80% of
45 youth who die by suicide in Milwaukee County are Black, Indigenous or People of Color
46 (BIPOC); and

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WHEREAS, the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning, at its meeting of May 10, 2023, recommended adoption of File No. 23-576 (vote 3-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, in recognition of “The Year of Mental Health” and the ongoing mental health crisis impacting Milwaukee County youth, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby endorses the Governor’s proposed Biennial Budget allocation of \$270 million to invest in mental and behavioral health resources in schools for Wisconsin youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to state policymakers, the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, and the Milwaukee County Youth Commission.

05/10/23
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