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From the Director, Child Support Services, recommending the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislature allocate an additional \$1.5 million annually within the 2019-2021 Wisconsin State budget, in the form of General Purpose Revenue, to support county child support agencies, 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 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, the Department of Child Support Services 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 non-custodial parents; and

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

WHEREAS, the State’s Program is ranked second in the nation for collecting current support; and

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

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

WHEREAS, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97 percent of cases, which reduces State Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; 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

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WHEREAS, the State's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional State funding, and diminished performance would result in reduced Federal funding to the State; and

WHEREAS, decreased Federal funding would lead to less funding for the County's child support agency, which could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff, services, and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS, new State investments in child support services are amplified by a generous Federal match, that is, every \$1 of State General Purpose Revenue invested in the Program generates \$2 in Federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of April 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-219 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests State of Wisconsin (the State) funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$1.5 million in General Purpose Revenue in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 State budget, which will generate approximately \$3 million in additional Federal funding each year, an investment that will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children; and

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

kae
04/11/19
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