

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on 2023-10-30 6:00 PM - ANNUAL HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

Meeting Time: 10-30-23 18:00

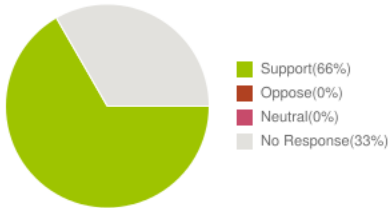
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on 2023-10-30 6:00 PM - ANNUAL HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING	10-30-23 18:00	44	3	2	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on 2023-10-30 6:00 PM - ANNUAL HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

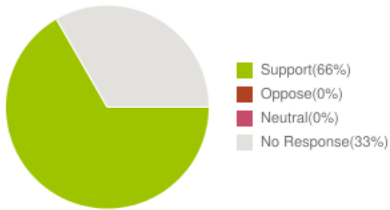
10-30-23 18:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
1 23-889 From the Office of the County Executive, providing the 2024 recommended budget.	3	2	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

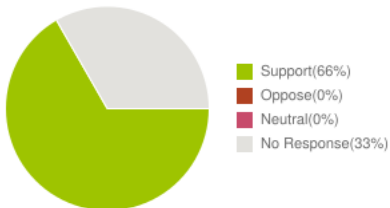
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 1 23-889 From the Office of the County Executive, providing the 2024 recommended budget.

Overall Sentiment



Tracey Stanislawski

Location:

Submitted At: 4:29pm 10-30-23

Hello,
I am commenting in support of the section of the budget that adds one-time funding for the Birth to Three program. If children do not receive services early may lack the skills necessary to be successful in school. Children with sensory disabilities, like vision and hearing loss need specific, skilled interventions to learn to use other senses, to make environmental adaptations and family education that is funded through the birth to three program. Without this early identification and services, our county faces many other unintended costs-affecting an individual's level of educational attainment, employment, social opportunities and in the case of sensory disabilities, access to literacy. Please fully fund the birth to three program and continue the support for Wisconsin's babies.

Tim Hennigan

Location:

Submitted At: 12:59pm 10-30-23

ABC for Health, Inc. is a Madison-based non-profit public interest law firm that promotes health equity and social justice. We work with clients struggling with medical debt, insurance, access to health, and other health-related problems resulting from the complicated health care financing system. We strongly support the budget proposal to eliminate the unjust and racially inequitable policy of Birth Cost Recovery.

Birth Cost Recovery is an issue of critical importance to women in Wisconsin, especially women of color. The Birth Tax, as we call it, is a medical collections process directed by the State of Wisconsin and implemented by local Child Support Agencies. However, don't be fooled – the Birth Tax is NOT child support. The Birth Tax allows child support agencies to aggressively pursue and collect certain Medicaid-supported birthing costs from unmarried parents, usually non-custodial fathers. The judgments collected do NOT support the child or family. Instead, these funds reimburse the State and Federal Medicaid programs for expenses incurred in the Medicaid-supported birth. In fact, recent research by Dr. Tiffany Green at UW Madison's Institute for Research on Poverty suggests that eliminating the Birth Tax may increase child support compliance.

People of color, particularly Black and Indigenous families, are disproportionately subjected to the Birth Tax. In Wisconsin, 88% of Medicaid-covered births in Black families in 2020 could have resulted in a Birth Tax judgment. Similarly, 85% of Medicaid-covered births in Indigenous families could have resulted in a Birth Tax judgment. Contrast this with only 58% of white families. The Birth Tax is a holdover from a less tolerant time, designed to penalize low-income families who break the white suburban mold. We must do better.

Overall, no matter the income level of the payor (usually the father of the child), the policy hurts families. The pregnant person will always be someone low enough income to be enrolled in Medicaid (under 306% of the Federal Poverty Level), and the pregnant person is the individual stressed by the policy, forced to make the decision to cooperate and identify the father (and therefore begin the collections action) or face a sanction and termination of Medicaid 60 days post partem. At a time when women's health is already under attack and where research supports MORE coverage post-partem, not less, the policy simply doesn't make sense.

Previous attempts to eliminate the Birth Tax have failed, largely due to zealous defense of the policy by the Child Support department, which receives at a minimum, a 15% "bounty" on all Birth Tax judgments. They make claims that they don't collect from the lowest-income families – claims that are unsupported and in fact directly contradict the experiences shared by community members. The county has also repeatedly claimed that the Birth Tax provides Milwaukee with necessary funding. Let us be clear: continuing to fund the county largely on the backs of low-income families of color is cruel and unjust, just as it has been the entire time the Birth Tax has been in place.

While most states have abandoned this practice, not only has Wisconsin continued, but it takes the most aggressive enforcement posture in the nation. Milwaukee County leads the state with over \$69 million in outstanding Birth Tax judgments (over TEN TIMES the second-place county). Almost two-thirds of outstanding Birth Tax judgments originate from Milwaukee. Milwaukee also has notoriously poor health outcomes for Black infants and mothers. Subjecting families to the Birth Tax adds yet another systemic obstacle for families of color. The City of Milwaukee Health Department has previously called for eliminating the Birth Tax as a measure to reduce infant mortality rates. The Birth tax is just one stressor in a young family's life – but today we have a rare opportunity to eliminate this inequitable policy and the harm it does to families.

Richard Olson

Location:

Submitted At: 8:09am 10-29-23

A last minute addition by Kathleen Vincent needs immediate attention. The parking lot at Scout Lake has been deteriorating for the past 10 year.

As alligator cracking becomes severe, the interconnected cracks create chunks of pavement, which can be dislodged as vehicles drive over them. A pothole is the hole that is left after the pavement chunk is dislodged. Worst yet is in the winter, when water freezes in these cracks and fills the holes with ice.

It is normal after this amount of time for asphalt to begin to turn gray, become brittle and start cracking. Water begins entering the cracks, freezes and thaws during the yearly cycle and causes larger cracks and potholes. Please consider funding the immediate repaving of this parking lot. Scout Lake is utilized by many adults, but especially young children.

Thank you.