By Supervisor Moore Omokunde File No. 20-385

**A RESOLUTION**

Endorsing federal legislation premised upon an April 22, 2020 letter co-written by United States Senator Tammy Baldwin relating to a national program of means-tested federally subsidized transitional employment for COVID-19 economic relief, but also to further the goals of the Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity

WHEREAS, in File No. 19-582, Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee formed the “Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity” to address the dual issues of mitigating and countering the negative effects of global climate change and addressing income inequality, particularly through the creation of “green” jobs; the Taskforce began its work on January 13, 2020 and progress toward its recommendations to the County and City continue; and

WHEREAS, the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 (COVID-19) Pandemic has created extreme economic hardship for many individuals and businesses in Milwaukee County and across the United States, including approximately 10 to 12 percent of the American workforce on unemployment insurance during the latter half of April, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development reported it had received more than 500,000 unemployment applications between March 15 and May 9, 2020, paying more than $941 million statewide; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, United States Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin co-wrote a letter to the U.S. Senate Leadership of both major parties with three other senators, hereto attached to this file, requesting provisions and appropriations relating to the creation of a means-tested national program providing for transitional subsidized employment as part of future SARS-CoV-2/COVID 19 economic relief legislation:

“The program would offset employers’ cost for wages and any needed on-the-job training or other supportive services. Federal funding would enable states and local organizations to scale up or establish subsidized employment programs that meet the needs of their communities, including by directly employing subsidized workers in public service and infrastructure jobs.”

; and

WHEREAS, a May 7, 2020 Brookings Institution report titled, “We can’t recover from a coronavirus recession without helping young workers,” the authors noted, “Nearly half of low-wage young adults without a college degree work in sectors immediately impacted by COVID-19,” and further argued, “Massive unemployment requires a proportionate response, and any future COVID-19 relief legislation should include a large-scale, federally funded employment initiative. Given the extent of the job losses and the likelihood of an economic depression, we should aim to employ millions of people, and authorize such a program for at least three years”; and

WHEREAS, substantive action based on the premises of Senator Baldwin et al’s April 22, 2020 letter to U.S. Senate leadership would be a positive step toward furthering the goals of the Joint City-County Taskforce and improving the lives of many Americans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby endorses the content of an April 22, 2020 letter, hereto attached to this file, to U.S. Senate leadership co-written by Senator Tammy Baldwin and three other senators relating to the creation of a means-tested national program providing for transitional subsidized employment in future COVID-19 economic relief legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to federal policymakers and support legislation that achieves the criteria outlined in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County requests the County Clerk provide this resolution to federal elected officials who represent any part of Milwaukee County.