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A resolution by Supervisors Moore Omokunde and Johnson, Jr., 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, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in File No. 19-582, Milwaukee County (the County) and the City of Milwaukee (the City) formed the Milwaukee City-County Joint Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity (the Task Force) 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; and the Task Force began its work on January 13, 2020, and progress toward its recommendations to the County and City continue; and

WHEREAS, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus-2/Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has created extreme economic hardship for many individuals and businesses in the County and across the United States (U.S.), 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 State of Wisconsin (the State) Department of Workforce Development reported it had received more than 500,000 unemployment applications between March 15, 2020, and May 9, 2020, paying more than \$941 million Statewide; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, U.S. 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 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

45 WHEREAS, a May 7, 2020, Brookings Institution report titled, “We can’t recover
46 from a coronavirus recession without helping young workers,” the authors noted,
47 “Nearly half of low-wage young adults without a college degree work in sectors
48 immediately impacted by COVID-19,” and further argued, “Massive unemployment
49 requires a proportionate response, and any future COVID-19 relief legislation should
50 include a large-scale, federally funded employment initiative. Given the extent of the job
51 losses and the likelihood of an economic depression, we should aim to employ millions
52 of people, and authorize such a program for at least three years”; and
53

54 WHEREAS, substantive action based on the premises of Senator Baldwin et al.’s
55 April 22, 2020, letter to U.S. Senate leadership would be a positive step toward
56 furthering the goals of the Joint City-County Task Force, and improving the lives of
57 many Americans; and
58

59 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
60 May 20, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-385 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
61

62 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) hereby endorses the content
63 of an April 22, 2020, letter, hereto attached to this file, to United States Senate
64 leadership, co-written by Senator Tammy Baldwin and three other senators, relating to
65 the creation of a means-tested national program providing for transitional subsidized
66 employment in future Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus-2/Coronavirus
67 disease economic relief legislation; and
68

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized
70 and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to Federal policymakers,
71 and support legislation that achieves the criteria outlined in this resolution; and
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73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County requests the County Clerk provide this
74 resolution to Federal elected officials who represent any part of the County.
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