RESOLUTION # _____	ITEM # _____ BOARD ACTION	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD ACTION	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION
TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	Adopted: _____ For: _____ Against: _____ Abstain: _____ Abs/Excd: _____ Vote Req: _____ Other Action: ___	Adopted: ✓ For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Abs/Excd: 0	Adopted: ✓ For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Abs/Excd: 0

RE: REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including; prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs;

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee county, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under-resourcing, oversight gaps and disparity of attention given to DMCPS compared to the rest of the state to continue, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

RE: REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors requests that the state of Wisconsin increase Children and Family Aids Allocation funding to counties in the 2019-21 Biennial Budget in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and to implement caseload standards based on the methodology developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) to evaluate the necessary staffing resources for Wisconsin's CPS system to meet its obligations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state of Wisconsin close critical oversight gaps by creating the legislative mechanisms to review CPS resource needs of the 71 non-Milwaukee counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, Senator Shilling, Representatives Doyle and Billings and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration at the Annual Business meeting to become a part of the WCA legislative platform.

FISCAL NOTE: Between 2011 and 2017, annual expenditures for La Crosse County Child Protective Services and Juvenile Justice Services out-of-home placements rose by $1,845,713 (89%). During that same period, La Crosse County's combined annual Children and Family Aids and Youth Aids allocations from the State of Wisconsin decreased by $121,260 (-4%). For calendar year 2018, La Crosse County's combined annual Children and Family Aids and Youth Aids allocations increased by $152,250 (5%) compared to calendar year 2017.

Date: June 12, 2018

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD CHAIR

Alice K Shannon

RECORDING CLERK

Date: June 13, 2018

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Terri J. Parlic

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.		SO		Requested By: Jason Witt
Fin. Director				Date Requested: June 5, 2018
Corp. Counsel				Drafted By: Jason Witt
Board Chair	T			

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this _____ Day of _____, 2018