

1 **Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

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3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-69**

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6 **WHEREAS:** SAWYER County Child Support Agency administers the Child Support
7 Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to approximately 1200 families
8 in Sawyer County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health
9 insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

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11 **WHEREAS:** Our children’s well-being, economic security and success in life are
12 enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

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14 **WHEREAS:** County child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support
15 during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

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17 **WHEREAS:** Sawyer County’s Child Support Agency provides services to children as
18 well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish
19 parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

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21 **WHEREAS:** The economic security and social service programs provided by Sawyer
22 County Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than
23 ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and

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25 **WHEREAS:** State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with
26 county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new
27 federal regulations; and

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29 **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in
30 the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and

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32 **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin’s decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an
33 estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019 and
34 2020; and

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36 **WHEREAS:** An abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2
37 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

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39 **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without
40 additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to
41 federal funding for Wisconsin; and

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43 **WHEREAS:** Decreased federal funding results in less funding for Sawyer County’s
44 child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and
45 services and reduced child support collections; and

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47 **WHEREAS:** New state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal
48 match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in
49 federal matching funds; and

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51 **WHEREAS:** Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-
52 effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.
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55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sawyer County Board of
56 Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be
57 increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which
58 will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment
59 will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our
60 children.
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62 **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the
63 County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State
64 Representatives representing Sawyer County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of
65 Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.
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67 This Resolution was discussed by the Public Safety Committee at its meeting on April 8, 2021,
68 and was recommended for approval by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting
69 on April 20, 2021.

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73 James Schlender, Chair

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73 Ron Buckholtz, Vice Chair

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77 Ed Peters, Member

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77 Chuck Van Etten, Member

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81 Dale Schleeter

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83 This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 20th day of
84 April, 2021.
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89 Tweed Shuman,
90 Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chairman

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89 Lynn Fitch,
90 Sawyer County Clerk