# KENOSHA COUNTY

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Resolution No. _____

| Subject: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding** | | | |
| Original [ x ] | Corrected [  ] | 2nd Correction [] | Resubmitted [  ] |
| Date Submitted: | | Date Resubmitted: | |
| Submitted by:  Supervisors Decker, Geertsen, and Stocker | | | |
| Fiscal Note Attached [  ] | | Legal Note Attached [  ] Agreement | |
| Prepared by: | | Signature: | |

WHEREAS, Kenosha County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, providing a holistic set of services to Kenosha County children and their parents, including paternity establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support, and establishing, enforcing, and modifying health insurance orders for children; and

WHEREAS, child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in Wisconsin, with county child support agencies serving approximately 347,000 children and collecting roughly $906 million in financial support for Wisconsin families in 2021; and

WHEREAS, child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to better educational and behavioral outcomes for children, and have a positive effect on health, food security, and housing stability; and

WHEREAS, county child support agencies work closely with both parents to ensure that they have the help they need to be successful, including assistance with finding employment, referrals to other social service programs, and right-sizing orders for individuals impacted by substance abuse, or other challenges; and

WHEREAS, state funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to a high number of caseloads per worker, increased complexity of cases, inflation, and new regulations; and

WHEREAS, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated $4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional funding, and Wisconsin has already dropped from second in the nation for the collection of current support in 2016 to sixth in the nation in 2021; and

WHEREAS, without additional state funds, county child support agencies may need to eliminate positions, further increase caseloads, or reduce services, further impacting federal performance measures, which would result in the loss of additional federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the individuals most impacted by insufficient funding for child support are the children and families served by county child support agencies, who may need to seek out public assistance programming absent the financial security provided by the child support program; and

WHEREAS, state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match; every $1 of Wisconsin GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly $2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of $6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by $5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately $9.7 million in additional federal funding each year, ensuring Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Kenosha County's legislative delegation, Governor Evers, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, all other Wisconsin counties, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.


_____          _____
Tim Stocker                                David Geertsen



_____          _____
Erin Decker