



**RESOLUTION #** 65-3/20

**TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**ITEM #** 3-9

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 23  
Against: -  
Abstain: -  
Abs/Excd: 6  
Vote Req: -  
Other Action: -

**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD**

Adopted:   
For: 9  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 8  
Abs/Excd: 8

**RE: IN SUPPORT OF THE WISCONSIN OPPORTUNITY ACT (SB 467, AB 508)**

**WHEREAS**, the Institute for Research on Poverty reports that more than 1 in 10 Wisconsinites live in poverty, including 16.9% of all children in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 *Wisconsin Poverty Report* shows that poverty has increased in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the Department of Public Instruction identified more than 19,000 homeless children and youth throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, 306,000 low-income Wisconsin renters pay more than half their income for housing; and

**WHEREAS**, 37.5% of Wisconsinites struggle to afford the necessities of housing, childcare, health care, food, and transportation, according to the 2018 United Way *ALICE Study of Financial Hardship*; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent community needs assessment conducted by our local Couleecap Community Action Program assessing barriers to economic stability experienced by low-income individuals and households revealed that over half of the low income households surveyed that received income from wages still had to rely on food pantries, and state and local safety net programs just to make ends meet for their families; that even with healthcare insurance 86% of households surveyed still listed healthcare accessibility, especially dental, vision, and mental health care as a significant barrier for their families; and 60% of people reported having difficulty paying for their utility bills and homeowners struggled to make home repairs that kept their homes safe, putting their housing at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Opportunity Act aims to provide the transformational investments that reduce poverty and fundamentally improve people's economic circumstances. This act furthers the goal of addressing the systemic barriers to achieving economic stability by providing housing, health, job training, and income supports; and

**WHEREAS**, the WOA is the result of extensive consultation with stakeholders and local communities and features fundamentally sound practices for improving the lives of low and moderate-income households across the state and enacting and implementing WOA will position our state as a leader in promoting inclusive economic development;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors supports passage and enactment of the Wisconsin Opportunity Act in the Wisconsin State Legislature;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that La Crosse County Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to State Senator Jennifer Shilling, State Representative Jill Billings, State Representative Steve Doyle, Governor Tony Evers, County Board Chairs and County Clerks of all other counties in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA).

**FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact.

Date: March 10, 2020

Sharon Hays  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Alice K. Sorenson  
**RECORDING CLERK**

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>JK</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Monica Kruse Maureen Freedland
Fin. Director	<u>SKD</u>	_____	_____	Date Requested: February 25, 2020
Corp. Counsel	<u>JK</u>	_____	_____	Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Board Chair	<u>JK</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 19 Day of March, 2020

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

Ginny Dankmeyer  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk