

WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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VOTE

2008 RESOLUTION 42

Support for the State to Return All Federal Funds Received from the Federal Certified Public Expenditure Program to County Nursing Homes

WHEREAS, Washington County owns and operates a skilled nursing facility that provides a safety net for a population that has difficulty securing services elsewhere because of the specialized, expensive care that is required; and

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Payment Program, formerly known as the Intergovernmental Transfer Program, generates federal matching funds based on actual operating losses incurred by governmental nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, the amount of revenue that may be generated is capped by the federal government (Medicare Upper Limit); and

WHEREAS, all revenue generated from county nursing home losses is deposited in the State of Wisconsin's Medical Assistance Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the 2007-09 state biennial budget anticipates Medicaid deficits for county and municipal nursing homes of \$140,040,600 in FY 08 and \$136,858,800 in FY 09; and

WHEREAS, payments to counties from the federal match paid on county losses are capped at \$37.1 million each year and the State anticipates utilizing \$40,000,000 in FY 08 and \$37,000,000 in FY 09 in federal matching funds for its Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS, under current state law, total supplemental payments to county and municipal homes may not exceed \$37.1 million per year; and

WHEREAS, county nursing homes generate significant losses as many county homes serve individuals with high acuity levels, intense behavioral needs and costly care needs; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Assistance rates paid to county nursing homes are insufficient to cover the cost of care for patients with such significant care needs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the number of county nursing homes has declined as many counties can no longer afford to allocate property tax dollars to the operation of a county home, yet county homes provide a valuable public service; and

