



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Joint Finance Approves Increasing Support for Adoptive Families

Yesterday the Joint Finance Committee approved additional resources to help support post-adoptive families in need of services, training and peer support.

For more than 15 years, Wisconsin has funded post-adoption resource centers across the state for families who adopt children through private domestic, international or public child welfare agencies. The new funding approved by the Committee will improve personal outreach to adoptive families.

“We appreciate the Committee’s action to increase the resources available to serve these families,” stated Linda Hall, WAFCA Executive Director. “As was shown through the deliberations of the Legislative Council Study Committee on Adoption Disruption and Dissolution this past summer, some of Wisconsin’s adoptive families face serious challenges and need additional support to maintain family stability.”

In 2013 there were more than 1100 adoptions in the state; nearly 700 of those were from the public child welfare system. It is estimated that currently there are more than 10,000 adopted children in the state under the age of 18. National research has shown that 20% of adoptive families are at risk of family disruption – and that the greatest time of risk is during adolescence.

“Quality post-adoption resources help families obtain supportive services before they reach a point of crisis – a crisis which can result in costly mental health and child welfare system involvement,” emphasized Hall. “The cost to the state and counties for these disrupted adoptions is significant; the emotional cost to these adopted children and their families is immeasurable.”

“We are grateful to Representatives Joel Kleefisch and Dean Knudson for their leadership on this issue and to the Joint Finance Committee for their support of Wisconsin’s adoptive families.”

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WAFCA is a member association that works to improve the lives of families and children in Wisconsin.

Our member agencies provide a wide array of prevention and supportive services such as foster care, in-home support, counseling, and mental health treatment. WAFCA represents over 50 child and family serving agencies and leaders in the field and advocates for the more than 225,000 individuals and families that they serve each year.