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Joint Finance Committee Supports Sound Financial Policies for Child and Family Serving Agencies

Each year thousands of children in Wisconsin who are removed from their homes due to child abuse and neglect are placed in the care of private human services agencies. These private agencies find caring foster parents and mental health professionals to help these children and their parents heal and grow. These are just a few of the array of critical services provided by these agencies across the state in partnership with counties and communities.

Yesterday the Joint Finance Committee voted to strengthen the private human services sector by endorsing important policy changes to allow agencies to keep reasonable earnings and reinvest in innovative children's services. These provisions will help ensure that quality organizations are available to serve vulnerable children and families today and into the future.

Linda Hall, Executive Director of WAFCA said, "We are pleased that the Finance Committee approved these important measures that will support the financial sustainability of our organizations."

"We are particularly grateful for the leadership of Representative Dale Kooyenga and Senator Howard Marklein," continued Hall. "They recognized the fiscal challenges that nonprofit service providers have faced and crafted common sense policies that will enhance our ability to care for kids."

"Our WAFCA member agencies have a long and proud history of serving Wisconsin's families," emphasized Ron Hauser, WAFCA Board Chair and Chief Program Officer for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. "Over the years, we have had to adapt to meet the changing needs of our communities. This Joint Finance action will provide us with important tools to build on the strengths of our private human services sector -- keeping us nimble and responsive."

WAFCA is a member association that works to improve the lives of families and children in Wisconsin. For 35 years, WAFCA has represented child and family serving agencies that provide a wide array of prevention and supportive services such as foster care, in-home support, counseling, and mental health treatment. WAFCA advocates on behalf of members and the more than 225,000 individuals and families that they serve each year.

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