



# *Milwaukee County*

County Executive Scott Walker

Board Chairman Lee Holloway

December 12, 2007

For Immediate Release

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## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER, CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY THANK LEGISLATURE FOR RELEASING CRUCIAL CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING**

*Unanimous Joint Finance Committee decision preserves Child Support services for families*

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and Board Chairman Lee Holloway are thanking members of the Wisconsin Legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance for releasing \$8.25 million in funds to help offset federal cuts to the County’s Child Support Enforcement efforts. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Federal Deficit Reduction Act went into effect, reducing child support enforcement funds to Wisconsin counties by 67%. Milwaukee County alone stood to lose more than \$8 million next year due to the cuts.

“The Joint Finance Committee’s unanimous decision to release the funds to offset these cuts preserves a crucial safety net for families in Milwaukee County. Each dollar invested in enforcement brings \$6 in child support collections,” County Executive Walker said. “In Milwaukee County, each Child Support Enforcement employee collects nearly half a million dollars per year on average.”

Thanks to this funding, more than 40,000 families in Milwaukee County will receive child support payments in 2008. Even with these funds, however, a big hole remains. Approximately 24,000 families are still at risk of losing child support because of the DRA.

“The State has really stepped up and softened the blow to Milwaukee County. I thank Governor Jim Doyle for including these funds in the 2007-09 State Budget,” Chairman Holloway said. “I also acknowledge the Joint Finance Committee members from Milwaukee County, including Senators Lena Taylor and Alberta Darling and Representatives Jeff Stone and Pedro Colón, for prioritizing the collection of child support for families in Wisconsin. Without regular child support payments, these families might fall below the poverty level.”

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