



*Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc.
Serving Wisconsin Families Since 1994*

**Birth Cost Recovery Update - "The Birth Tax"
March 11, 2020**

Hello Partners,

As you know, ABC for Health is dedicated to tracking the birth cost recovery policy in Wisconsin. This policy, we call it the "birth tax," is one that is especially important to keep our partners engaged and up to date as we work to eliminate the policy statewide. This Update announces a new resolution before the Milwaukee County Board Committee on Health and Human Needs and a reminder of a free, on-demand workshop on Birth Cost Recovery, now available online.

Milwaukee County Update

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, Theodore A. Lipscomb, Sr., chairman of Milwaukee's County Board introduced a [Resolution](#) eliminating Birth Cost Recovery in Milwaukee County, including text:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Department of Child Support Services shall no longer participate in the birth cost collection program effective May 1, 2020, which operates at the discretion of the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services, working in conjunction with the Office of the Comptroller, is authorized and directed to process an appropriation transfer of \$250,000...

In an attached [fiscal note](#), the transfer of funds is further described: Approval of this resolution places \$250,000 in an allocated contingency account for Child Support Services to request only if needed to achieve a balanced budget for the fiscal year.)

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisor's Health and Human Needs Committee has a meeting scheduled for [Wednesday](#) (3/18/2020) at 9am.

Recall, in late December Lipscomb introduced a resolution to review birth cost recovery practices to determine "the fiscal and racial equity impacts" of the practice in Milwaukee County. In his new resolution, he calls birth cost recovery, "a harmful practice to vulnerable communities within Milwaukee County" that "should not be continued." Lipscomb also acknowledges that "the 2020 Adopted Budget for Dane County, Wisconsin, eliminated the policy of birth cost recovery as part of their Access to Opportunity Initiative to alleviate financial stress for parents and address barriers that disproportionately impact low income families."

Free Virtual Workshop: Eliminating a Medicaid Health Disparity: Stopping the Birth Tax

ABC for Health and HealthWatch Wisconsin created a free, informational workshop titled, "Eliminating a Medicaid Health Disparity: Stopping the Birth Tax," in conjunction with 13th Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference: *2020 Visions & Decisions – Health Insurance. Social Justice. Health Equity*. The workshop is now available on the [HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference website](#).

This update is for informational purposes only.

Regards,

[Brynne McBride](#) & Robin Mwai

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