

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-0609**

**SUPPORTING LRB 2371/1 PENSION SYSTEM CONTRIBUTION**

**TO THE HONORABLE IOWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

**WHEREAS**, the costs of providing fringe benefits for the County's workforce amounts to approximately 31% of the total compensation costs;

**WHEREAS**, health insurance and pension costs are the two major components of the fringe benefits package;

**WHEREAS**, the County has made progress on decreasing the impact of health insurance costs in part through increasing the employee contributions; and

**WHEREAS** there is a widening disparity between public and private sector fringe benefit costs that results in increased attention; and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County is required to participate in the state-operated Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS); and

**WHEREAS**, the System calls for employees to contribute 3% to 5.9% depending on the employee category into the System yet Iowa County like most members and as a result of years of collective bargaining concessions have not required employee contribution for over 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County will be experiencing a \$74,000 increase in pension contributions in 2010 due to the economic downturn resulting in poor investment earnings; and

Whereas, legislation under LRB 2371/1 attempts to address the cost burden and require employees to contribute the first 3% of pension costs that would save Iowa County over \$286,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County has raised this issue as part of the collective bargaining process but so far has been unsuccessful in obtaining a concession in this area in large part due to the prevalence of comparables that do not require employee contribution,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors hereby endorses LRB 2371/1 as means to cap pension costs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Doyle, Rep. Steve Hilgenberg, Rep. Phil Garthwaite, Sen. Dale Schultz and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Dated this 16th day of June 2009.

Respectfully submitted by the Iowa County Administrative Services Committee