

Resolution No. 6-0309

SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT/CERTIFIED PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PROGRAM
FOR COUNTY NURSING HOMES

WHEREAS, The Supplemental Payment Program, formerly known as the intergovernmental transfer program, generates federal matching funds based on actual operating losses incurred by governmental nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, the amount of revenue that may be generated is capped by the federal government (Medicare Upper Limit); and

WHEREAS, all revenue generated from county nursing home losses is deposited in the state of Wisconsin's Medical Assistance Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the 2007-09 state biennial budget anticipates Medicaid deficits for county and municipal nursing homes of \$140,040,600 in FY 08 and \$136,858,800 in FY 09; and

WHEREAS, payments to counties from the federal match paid on county losses are capped at \$37.1 million each year, and the state anticipates utilizing \$40,000,000 in FY 08 and \$37,000,000 in FY 09 in federal matching funds for its Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS, under current state law, total supplemental payments to county and municipal homes may not exceed \$37.1 million per year; and

WHEREAS, counties have never received less than \$37.1 million in payments annually; and

WHEREAS, county nursing homes generate significant losses as many county homes serve individuals with high acuity levels and intense behavioral needs; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Assistance rates paid to county nursing homes is insufficient to cover the cost of care for patients with significant care needs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the number of county nursing homes has declined; and

WHEREAS, many counties can no longer afford to allocate property tax dollars to the operation of a county home, yet county homes provide a valuable public service; and

WHEREAS, as the \$37.1 million referenced in statute represents a cap on payments to counties, the state has the ability to provide payments to county and municipal homes in an amount less than \$37.1 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors supports a legislative change requiring the state of Wisconsin to pay county and municipal nursing homes at least \$37.1 million annually under the supplemental payment program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Association of County Homes work in cooperation with the Department of Health Services to develop a plan to return all revenue generated from county nursing home losses to counties over a five-year period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake, DOA Secretary Michael Morgan, Governor Jim Doyle, all area legislators and the Wisconsin Counties Association.