



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children  
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

555 West Washington Ave, Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703

[www.wccf.org](http://www.wccf.org)

☎ 608-284-0580

✉ 608-284-0583

May 7, 2007

TO: Joint Finance Committee

FR: Charity Eleson, Executive Director

RE: Budget Paper #410 – Vital Records Fees

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) supports the Governor's recommendations for increases in the vital records fees. Much of the funding generated by the proposed fee increases would be used for important programs to improve child welfare, such as implementing the state plan for prevention of child maltreatment. Other uses include funding for: domestic abuse services, the Foster Youth Independence Center, services for children and families at Meta House, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee and youth summer jobs programs, the Early Childhood Initiative in Dane County, and the vital records system automation pilot.

Investing in the welfare of at-risk children is critically important if Wisconsin is going to slow the growth in spending for corrections and other types of institutional care. Of course, no one likes to see these types of fees increased, and the Council would prefer to see the revenue generated from a more progressive source. But unless or until a viable alternative source of funding is advanced, we support the Governor's recommendations as a much-needed boost in the preventive services for Wisconsin's children and families.

WCCF looks forward to working with you. Please contact me if you have any questions at 284-0580, ext. 302.

Thank you.