

Resolution No. 8-0715

SECURE STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL FOR POPULATION HEALTH

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has no dedicated, stable federal and state funding sources for communicable disease control and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, a strong public health infrastructure is paramount to the health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, emerging and existing communicable diseases threaten health security, economies, and quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, communicable diseases such as Ebola, H1N1, measles, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, influenza, measles, syphilis, gonorrhea, rabies, hepatitis, polio, and pertussis, can threaten the lives and well-being of Wisconsin residents; and

WHEREAS, emerging and re-emerging threats such as Ebola, H1N1, SARS, and measles threaten personal and community safety and require substantial resources to contain; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin local health department communicable disease programs protect residents by investigating and controlling communicable diseases, collecting data, educating the community about prevention and the importance of immunizations, and caring for those affected by these diseases; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Departments have been successful in controlling communicable diseases through case reporting and involvement of public health staff in referral of exposed persons for screening and prevention services; and

WHEREAS, evidence in the scientific literature indicates that partner notification services are not adequately assured in the absence of specific public health staff involvement; and

WHEREAS, local health departments and the State of Wisconsin have demonstrated commitment, competence and success in assuring the confidentiality of persons with reported communicable disease for decades, including cases of AIDS; and

WHEREAS, local health departments have placed a high priority on communicable disease control; and

WHEREAS, communicable disease control is one of the ten essential functions of public health; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board urges the State Legislature to develop and enact bipartisan support for state funding of comprehensive, sustainable, effective and evidence based communicable disease control and prevention for the public's health.

Respectfully submitted by the Iowa County Health and Human Services Committee.