2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 109

February 11, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives VOS, VORPAGEL, BRANDTJEN, R. BROOKS, TITTL, LOUDENBECK, CZAJA, KNODL, ROHRKASTE, BERCEAU, KRUG, KREMER, GANNON, DUCHOW, RODRIGUEZ and BALLWEG, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, HARDSFORD, LASSA and GUDEX. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: requesting the department of health services and the department of children and families to seek waiver approval to create a sliding scale for eligibility for public benefit programs.

Whereas, programs administered by the department of health services or the department of children and families under which the department of health services or the department of children and families provides services, benefits, or other assistance to individuals or families have eligibility parameters that may currently create a disincentive for participants to accept certain wage increases or job promotions due to the potential loss of benefits without sufficient income to replace these benefits; and

Whereas, there exists under the current structure of public benefits a “fiscal cliff” in which, for example, an employee might turn down a job promotion with a small hourly pay increase because the small pay increase might cause the employee's income to be outside the income eligibility thresholds such that the employee could
lose all childcare subsidies or other public benefits at once and, as a result, be
economically worse off; and

Whereas, the department of health services and the department of children and
families have limited flexibility under current program structures to alleviate or
mitigate the effects of this fiscal cliff; and

Whereas, the federal government could approve waiver requests from the
department of health services and the department of children and families
authorizing these agencies to create a sliding scale that mitigates the effects of the
existing fiscal cliff by taking into account a person's income and other factors
regarding a person’s eligibility for public benefit programs and establishing
appropriate levels of contributions and benefits for participants based on those
factors; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
Wisconsin legislature request the department of health services and the department
of children and families to seek waiver approval from the federal government to
create a sliding scale that mitigates the effects of the existing fiscal cliff by taking into
account a person’s income and other factors regarding a person’s eligibility for public
benefit programs and establishing appropriate levels of contributions and benefits
for participants based on those factors; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
resolution to the secretary of health services and the secretary of children and
families.

(END)