## Statement from Rob Henken, Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, on state task force announcement:

A press release from yesterday announcing a task force to examine Milwaukee County finances included the following statement: "The state pays the full cost of child welfare services only in Milwaukee County."

State government took over the Milwaukee County Child Welfare System in the 1990s. To fund the system, the state government intercepts \$20 million of shared revenue payments from Milwaukee County and intercepts \$38 million of Community Aids from Milwaukee County.

In other words, the state government takes \$58 million in aid previously given to Milwaukee County and uses it to fund the child welfare system now run by the state government. If the state actually paid for the \$58 million cost, the county would be in a much better financial position.