

2024 RES-352

AUTHORIZING DANE COUNTY CORPORATION COUNSEL TO INITIATE AND PARTICIPATE IN LEGAL ACTION ON BEHALF OF DANE COUNTY FOR PURPOSES OF SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF DANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND DANE COUNTY RESIDENTS

Since the January 20, 2025, Presidential Inauguration, the presidential administration has issued numerous federal executive orders and other actions that have raised legal questions regarding their authority to do so, and have disrupted grant funding payments subject to executed contracts between U.S. government agencies and local governments. The frequency and rapid issuance of these actions may be a precursor of further action that could jeopardize funds or undermine Dane County's autonomy, thereby impeding the county's ability to deliver services needed to carry out the duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents.

Prospective authorization for the Dane County Corporation Counsel to initiate legal action or join others in bringing a lawsuit would meet the imperative that Dane County be positioned to act in a timely manner to defend itself against the federal administration's threats to the county's funding, autonomy, or effective functioning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Dane County Corporation Counsel to initiate or participate in legal action on behalf of Dane County for purposes of safeguarding the interests of Dane County government and Dane County residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Corporation Counsel shall notify the Dane County Board of any such action taken by the Corporation Counsel as soon as practicable.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the provisions of this resolution shall remain in effect through April 2026.