**A Resolution in Support of Fair Working Conditions for Wisconsin Public Defenders**

Whereas, the work of our public defenders in Wisconsin represent an essential bedrock of our democracy, help to mitigate social inequality, and provide the fair representation anyone accused of a criminal charge deserves;

Whereas, public defenders’ offices across the state have been underfunded for decades;

Whereas, public defenders work tirelessly, often with overwhelming caseloads, to represent their clients;

Whereas, the 2025-27 biennial budget failed to adequately fund the public defenders’ offices, and in fact funded prosecutors’ offices at a much higher level than that of public defenders;

Whereas, the University of Wisconsin Law School has decided to terminate the director of the Public Defender Project while not cutting the law school’s Prosecution Project in any way;

Be it hereby resolved, that AFT-Wisconsin recognizes and asserts the essential importance of funding state public defenders’ offices at levels adequate to ensure our members have a sustainable workload and their clients are fairly represented;

And be it further resolved, that AFT-Wisconsin will not support any candidates for legislative or executive office who does not support adequately funding our state’s public defenders and pledging to fight for it in the 2027-29 annual budget;

And be it finally resolved, that AFT-Wisconsin and its members will fight for the funding our public defender members and their clients deserve.

Submitted by Clayton Cavanaugh, President, Wisconsin Public Defenders United, and Jon Shelton, President, AFT-Wisconsin.