

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE
HEARING RECORDS

1995-96

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

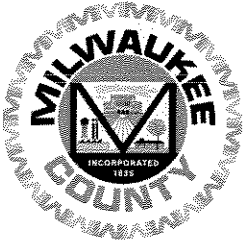
➤ **95hr_ab0179_AC-VMA_pt01b**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

F. THOMAS AMENT • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 1, 1995

Representative Terry Musser, Chairman
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 20 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

Since Milwaukee County is one of the counties directly affected by Assembly Bill 179, the Veterans Service Commission measure intended to divert the authority for certain functions from the elected Executive or hired Administrators to unelected Veterans Service Commissioners, I have been asked to assure you that I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

The present system assures a level of accountability, yet leaves the counties without an Executive or Administrator the responsibility for their Veterans Service Commission to furnish aid and services to needy veterans.

Of the 15 counties that this measure has direct impact on, 10 of those counties are the top counties in general population as well as in veteran population and those numbers are over 50 percent in each category.

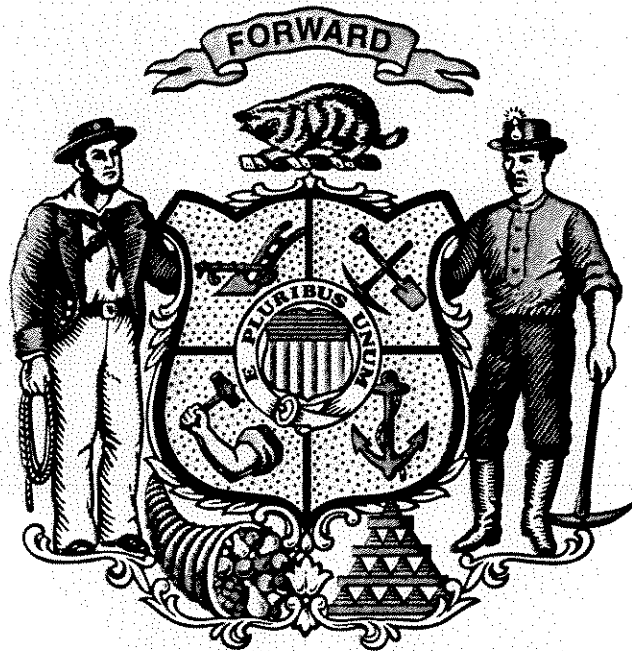
It would be my hope that you would see fit to oppose AB 179 and do everything you can to defeat it.

In appreciation and with all best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

F. Thomas Ament
County Executive

cc: Ted F. Fetting



June 12, 1995

F. Thomas Ament
Milwaukee County Executive
901 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Thomas:

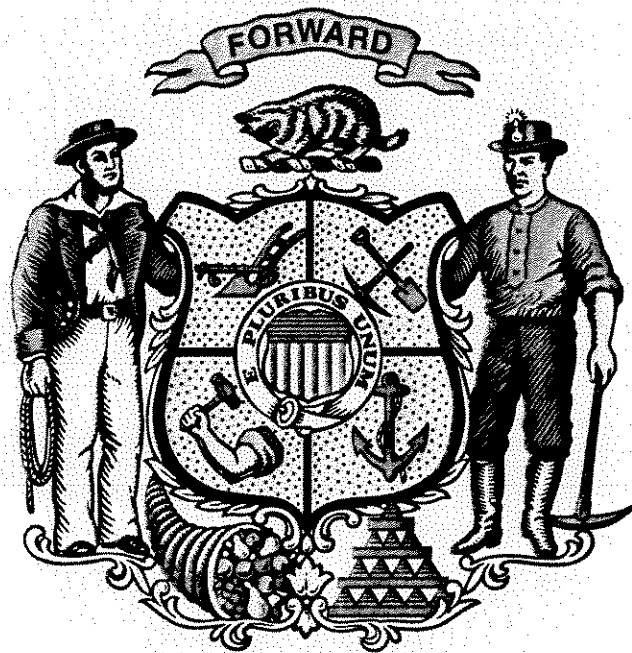
Thank you for your letter in opposition to Assembly Bill 179, which proposes to give the county veterans' service commission the responsibility to provide aid and services to needy veterans. I appreciate your input.

The bill was assigned to my committee in March. I plan to hold a public hearing on it possibly in August. I will decide after the hearing if the bill merits further action. If the opposition to the bill outweighs the support, I may not schedule a committee vote.

I appreciate your interest in Wisconsin Veterans issues. Thanks again for contacting me and please continue to contact me in the future with your views and concerns on state issues.

Sincerely yours,

Terry Musser, Chair
Veterans & Military Affairs Committee



**Rock County, Wisconsin
Board of Supervisors
51 South Main Street
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545
Phone: 608/757-5510
FAX: 608/757-5511**

June 20, 1995

Representative Terry Musser, Chairman
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 20 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

Rock County is one of the 15 Wisconsin counties (with elected executives or hired administrators) that will be directly affected by Assembly Bill 179. The purpose of this Bill is to divert responsibility to provide aid and services to needy veterans from our county veterans' service officer (CVSO) and give it to the county veterans' service commission (CVSC). I am opposed to this proposed legislation for several reasons.

In a time where the state is requiring more efficiency and reduced bureaucracy at all levels of government, it does not make sense to implement laws such as Assembly Bill 179 that reduce efficiency and add more bureaucracy. We have an appointed full time CVSO who is available at all times to serve veterans on short notice. It does not make sense to delay assistance until the CVSC meets to make decisions on these matters.

The proposed change is also more costly than the present system. In 1994, Rock County spent \$1,038 on per diem for the CVSC. During the same period, the county expended \$1,347 in emergency relief to needy veterans. The proposed change will result in more per diem paid to the CVSC members than the amount of assistance they award. This arrangement is neither efficient nor cost effective.

And finally, the present system assures a level of accountability. Our CVSO is directly responsible for providing aid and services to needy veterans. His budget is approved by the County Board and he reports to the County Administrator. The system works well for Rock County and I am against the changes outlined in Assembly Bill 179.

I ask you to oppose Assembly Bill 179. Thank you for your concern and understanding regarding our position with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

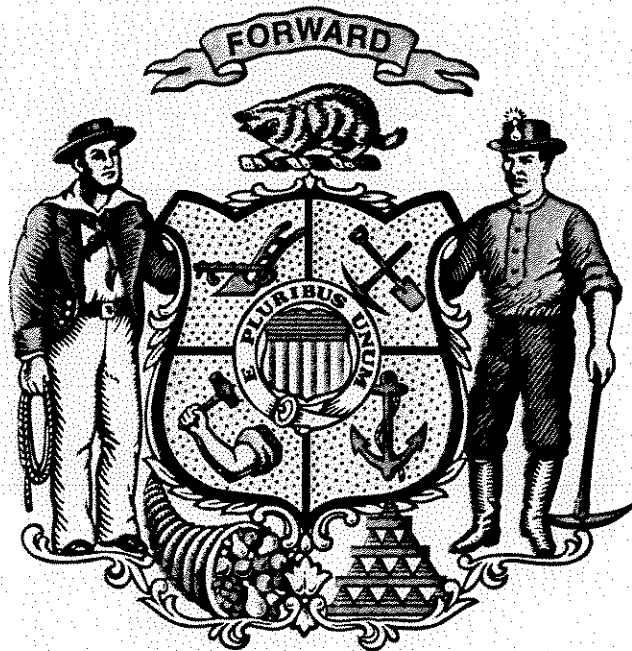
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald E. Upson".

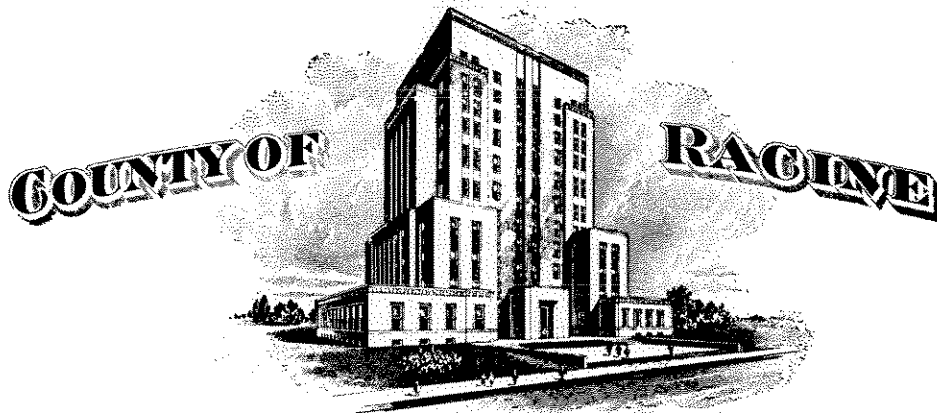
Donald E. Upson
County Board Chair

cc: Don Reichard, CVSO

LET720

Let720





COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JEAN M. JACOBSON

RACINE COUNTY COURT HOUSE
1931
730 Wisconsin Avenue
RACINE, WISCONSIN
53403

PHONE 414-636-3118
Racine County Courthouse Toll Free
1-800-242-4202

June 22, 1995

The Honorable Terry Musser
Wisconsin State Assembly
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

RE: AB 179

Dear Representative Musser:

As Racine County Executive, I wish to express my opposition to AB 179. This bill not only moves responsibility for Veterans' Commission appointments from the County Executive to the Board of Supervisors, but it also strips the County Veterans Service Officer of all responsibility for budgeting and administering aid to needy veterans.

I understand that of the 15 counties affected by AB 179, only two (Winnebago and Burnett) have Veterans Service Officers who support the bill. It is also worth mentioning that veterans service commissions were created in the 1930's, a time when the government offered few, if any, safety nets for needy citizens.

I by no means wish to disparage veterans service commissions. Their dedication and abilities have long been an important resource. Their direction, suggestions, approvals and advice are an essential part of the operation of the County Veterans Service Office.

Budget responsibility and the day-to-day administration of relief accounts do not, however, form a logical or necessary extension of the commission's function. In counties with as many veterans as we have in Racine, adding these additional

Representative Terry Musser
June 22, 1995
Page Two

responsibilities would put too onerous a burden on a group of volunteers at the same time as it would deprive the program participants of the consistent, professional support of the Veterans Service Officer. The responsibility for budgeting and administration should remain where it is -- with the Veterans Service Officer.

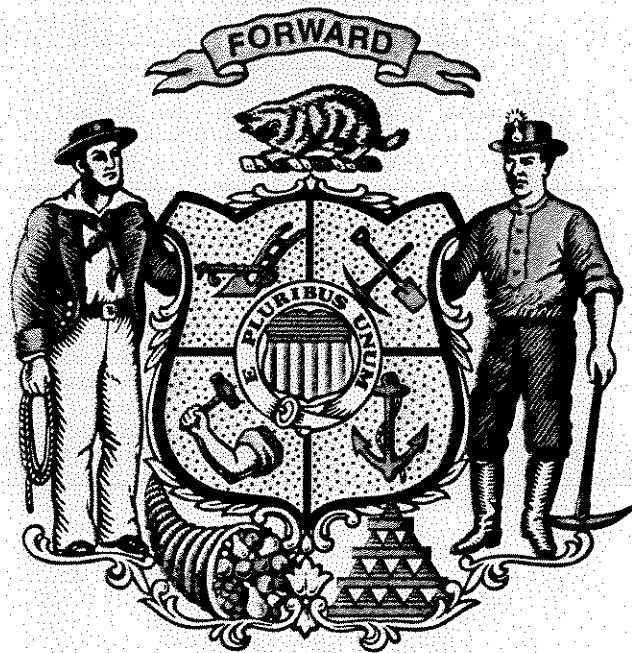
On behalf of those who receive the assistance of the veterans service office, I would appreciate your assistance in defeating this bill.

Sincerely,



Jean M. Jacobson
County Executive

cc: Representative Bonnie Ladwig
Representative Kimberly Plache
Representative Robert Turner
Representative Cloyd Porter
Representative Scott Gunderson
Representative James Rutkowski
John Weibel, Racine County Veterans Service Officer





JEFFERSON COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Courthouse Room 100
JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN 53549
Telephone 414-674-7101

WILLARD D. HAUSEN
County Administrator

JOYCE FISCHER
Personnel Manager

GERRY BRUNNER
Administrative Secretary

LINDA HEIKKINEN
Personnel Technician

June 27, 1995

Representative Terry Musser, Chairman
Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 20 North
P. O. Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

Jefferson County is one of the counties directly affected by Assembly Bill 179, the Veterans Services Commission measure intended to reduce the authority of the County Veterans Service Officer. I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

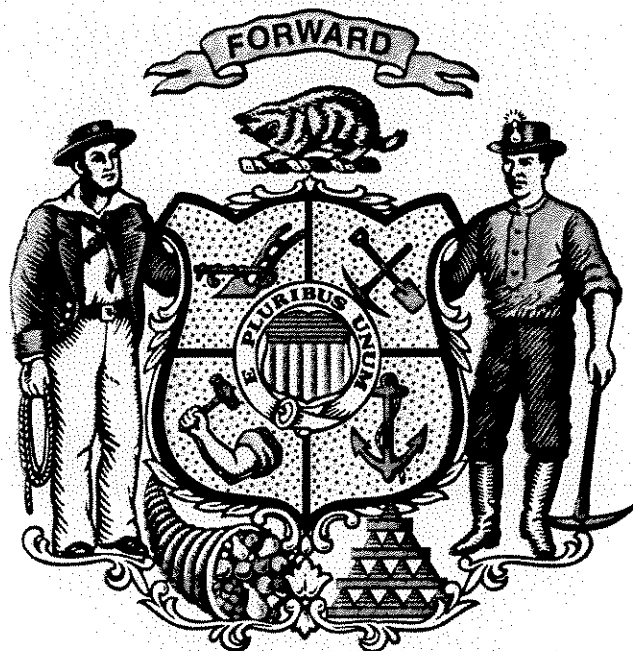
In Jefferson County there is a spirit of cooperation. As County Administrator I have faith in Joseph Pastor, Veterans Service Officer, to make the right decisions regarding approval of vouchers for veterans, their eligible dependents or survivors who are in need of temporary financial relief. Also, he is able to provide same-day assistance to those facing a critical financial crisis. To wait for a monthly meeting of the Commission to do the same makes little sense in this age of doing more with less. The current system works for the Veterans of Jefferson County.

Sincerely,

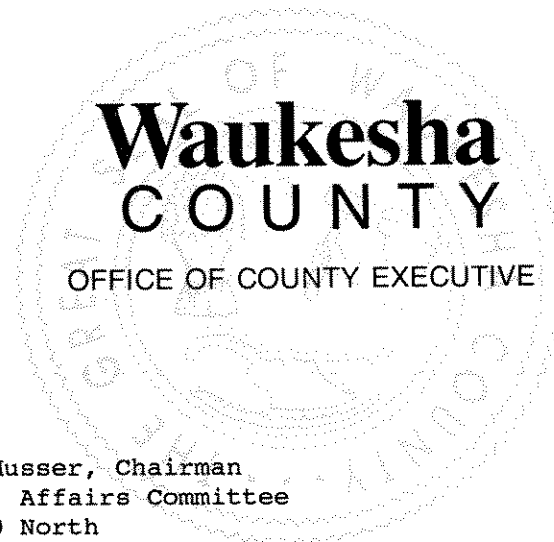
Willard D. Hausen
County Administrator

WDH:gb

cc Wendell A. Wilson, Jefferson County Board Chairman
Joseph Pastor, Veterans Service Officer



Daniel M. Finley
County Executive



June 28, 1995

Representative Terry Musser, Chairman
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 20 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Mr. Musser:


I am writing you with regard to Assembly Bill 179, which diverts responsibility for providing aid and services to needy veterans from the County Veterans' Service Officer to the Veterans' Service Commission in counties with an Executive or an Administrator. Waukesha County, which has the third largest veteran population in the state, is one of the 15 counties affected by this proposed legislation.

I wish to express my opposition to this bill. Under the current system, the funding to provide for needy veterans is contained in my Executive budget and is administered through the Department of Veterans' Services by our Director of Veterans' Services. This system works extremely well for our county and adequately addresses the needs of veterans and their dependents.

The proposed change would actually slow down the application process and add to the administrative costs of supplying such assistance. It would require additional meetings which will result in additional mileage and per diem expenses for the commissioners attending these meetings.

I ask you to vote against Assembly Bill 179. Thank you for your concern and understanding with regard to my position on this matter.

Sincerely,

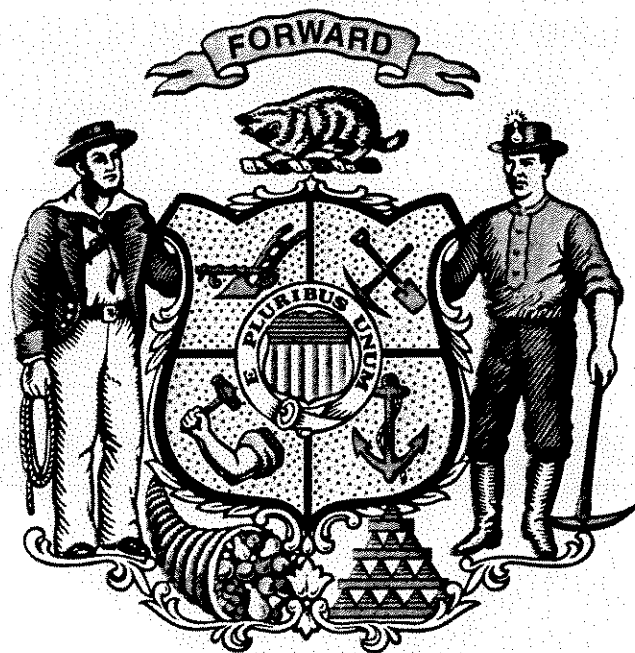


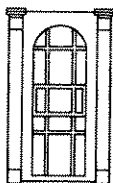
Daniel M. Finley
Waukesha County Executive

cc: John L. Margowski
Director of Veterans' Services

DMF/msm

1320 Pewaukee Road
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188
(414) 548-7902
Fax: (414) 548-7913
TDD: (414) 548-7903





COUNTY OF KENOSHA

ESTABLISHED 1850

June 30, 1995

Representative Terry Musser, Chairman
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 20 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

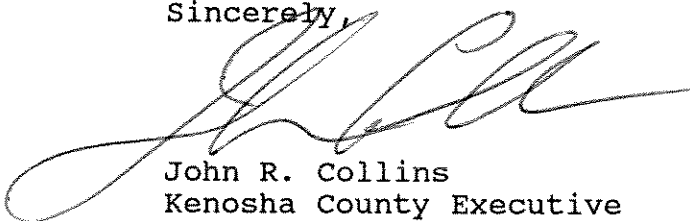
I am strongly opposed to Assembly Bill 179, which transfers the authority to provide aid to needy veterans from County Executives and Administrators to the Veterans Service Commission.

This proposal is a step backward with regards to fiscal management. The present system assures a level of accountability, yet leaves the counties without an Executive or Administrator the responsibility for their Veterans Service Commission to furnish aid and services to needy veterans.

I would hope that you see fit to oppose Assembly Bill 179 and do everything you can to defeat it.

If you have any questions or if I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



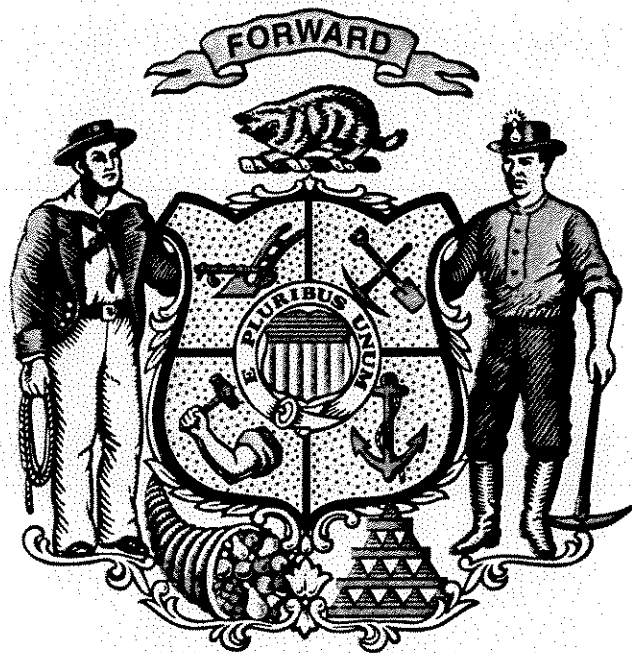
John R. Collins
Kenosha County Executive

CC: State Senator Joseph Andrea
Representatives: Cloyd Porter, Robert Wirch, Jim Kreuser
Kenosha County Veterans Officer Tom Lois



JOHN R. COLLINS — COUNTY EXECUTIVE

1010 - 56TH STREET KENOSHA, WI 53140 PHONE: (414)653-2600 FAX: (414)653-2817



July 26, 1995

Willard D. Hausen, Administrator
Jefferson County
Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 100
Jefferson, WI 53549

Dear Willard:

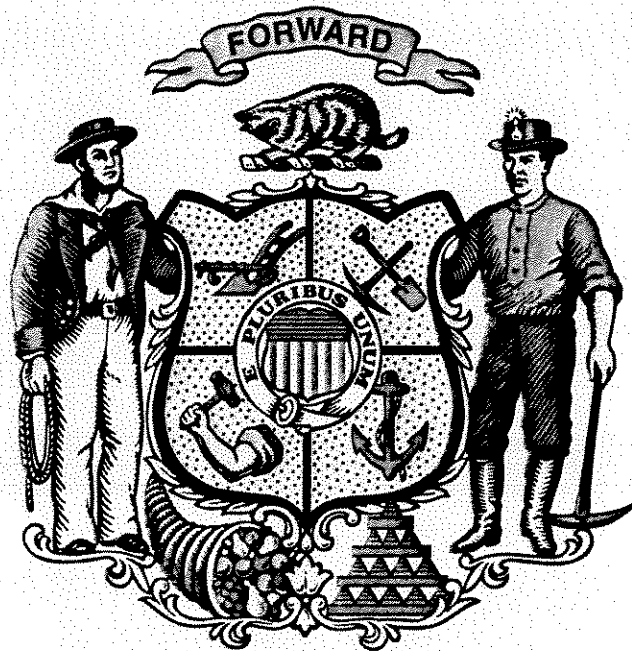
Thank you for your letter in opposition to Assembly Bill 179, which proposes to give the county veterans' service commission the responsibility to provide aid and services to needy veterans. I appreciate your input.

The bill was assigned to my committee in March. I plan to hold a public hearing on it possibly in August. I will decide after the hearing if the bill merits further action. If the opposition to the bill outweighs the support, I may not schedule a committee vote.

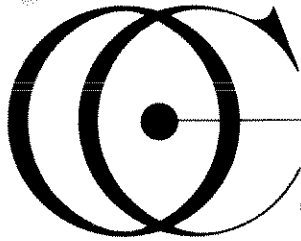
I appreciate your interest in Wisconsin Veterans issues. Thanks again for contacting me and please continue to contact me in the future with your views and concerns on state issues.

Sincerely yours,

Terry Musser, Chair
Veterans & Military Affairs Committee



oppose



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

410 S. WALNUT ST. APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Ronald L. Van De Hey, County Executive

Eugene F. Lillge, Executive Coordinator
Telephone 414/832-1684 FAX 414/832-1534

October 27, 1995

Representative Terry Musser, Chairperson
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Re: Assembly Bill 179

Dear Representative Musser:

I write in opposition to Assembly Bill 179, which would place responsibility for providing aid and services to needy veterans in counties with a county executive or administrator with the county veterans service commission (now, with the county veterans service officer).

The current system provides full-time, professional staff and is best able to meet the immediate needs of veterans. It is not acceptable to consider delaying decisions of aid and service pending a meeting of the county veterans service commission.

I urge you and the committee to defeat AB-179.

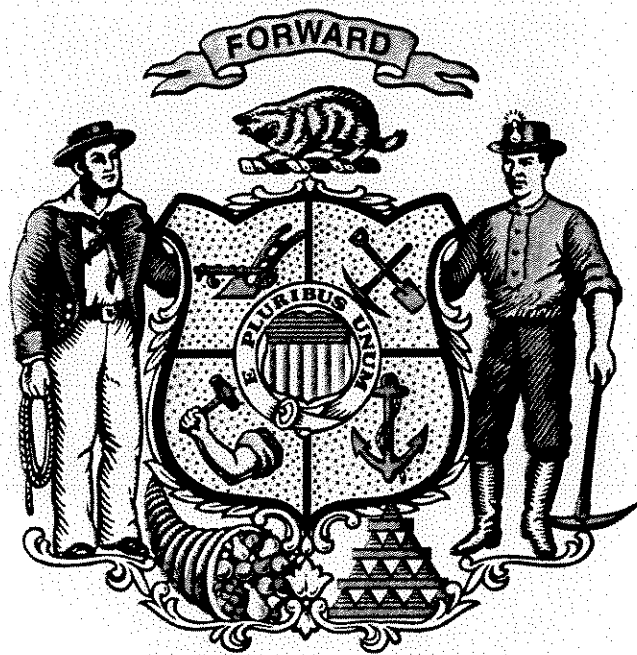
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ron Van De Hey
Outagamie County Executive

RVDH:efl

pc: County Legislative Delegation
Gary McGoey, Outagamie County Veterans Service Officer
County Board Legislative Audit Committee



EXECUTIVE

Brown County305 E. WALNUT STREET
P.O. BOX 23600
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305-3600**NANCY J. NUSBAUM**

PHONE (414) 448-4001 FAX (414) 448-4003

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 31, 1995

Chair, Terry Musser and
Members, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
20 North, Capitol Building
Madison, WI

Dear Representative Musser:

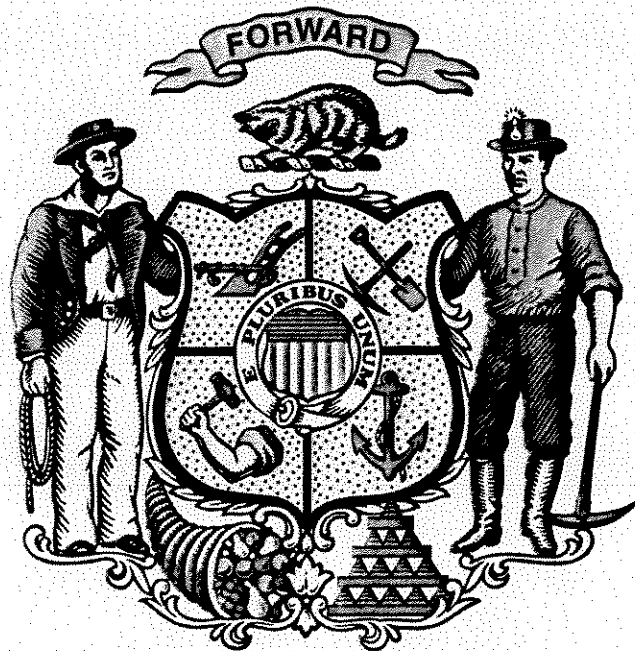
On behalf of the Brown County Board of Supervisors and Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum I am writing to inform you of our opposition to AB 179 which is scheduled for a hearing in your committee tomorrow.

This bill would be unworkable in Brown County and we would incur additional administrative costs which are unnecessary and burdensome. Our Veterans Service Officer currently provides the service that you would delegate to a commission. We distribute approximately \$4,000 per year in emergency aid. If we have to appoint a three member commission, pay them a stipend, mileage and expenses to review each and every request we will soon spend more on administrative costs than we do on emergency aid. This does not make sense. More importantly we find that the needs of the veterans population we serve are immediate. They cannot wait until we schedule a meeting of a commission to receive assistance. Our current system provides us with the flexibility we need to serve our constituents.

We urge you to vote "NO" on AB 179. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grondin
Assistant to the County Executive*No 3 member Commission*



WAUKESHA COUNTY



515 West Moreland Boulevard
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-2428

County Board Office

Phone: (414) 548-7002
Fax: (414) 548-7005

November 1, 1995

TO: Representative Terry Musser, Chair
Members of the Assembly Veterans Committee

FR: Dave Krahn
Executive Assistant to the County Board

RE: Assembly Bill 179 - County Veterans' Services Officers

Current law provides for county executives to appoint and supervise the county veterans' services officers (CVSO). This provision certainly makes sense as it properly places the authority for the management of a key department in the office of the chief elected official of the county.

However, AB 179 proposes to invalidate that authority by transferring the responsibility for the delivery of vital veterans' services from the CVSO to the Veterans Services Commission.

Waukesha County, with the third largest veteran population in the state, has been functioning very effectively under current statutes. Passage of AB 179 would undermine that efficiency and create a costly and cumbersome bureaucracy. This is not good public policy.

Waukesha County urges you to reject passage of AB 179.

Thank you for your consideration.