



# PATRICK TESTIN

## STATE SENATOR

### Testimony for SB 416

Senator Pat Testin

Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs

October 5, 2023

Good morning Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 416, which will change the requirements for counties to receive grants for veterans services.

The County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin (CVSO) is an organization of professional veteran's advocates whose goal is to help veterans receive the benefits they deserve after their time in the armed service. These county employees, former service members themselves, have the important task of managing and coordinating the delivery of both federal and state benefits to local veterans, and have helped these men and women time and again in navigating the various resources that are available to them when they return home. For close to a century now, thousands of service members returning home to Wisconsin have received support from their counties through CVSOs, and it's the purpose of this bill to ensure this organization remains free of unnecessary requirements that could hinder their vital operation.

Senate Bill 416 will remove unnecessary government red tape from the Department of Veterans Affairs' grant program for county veteran service offices. Currently, in order for a county to be eligible for this grant their veteran service officer, if chosen after April 15, 2015, must have taken a civil service examination for the position developed by the Bureau of Merit Recruitment and Selection in the Department of Administration or have been appointed under a civil service competitive examination procedure. However, this examination covers very little of what a county veteran service officer's job duties are and simply has no real purpose.

This bill eliminates the examination requirement, and instead just requires a county's veteran service officer chosen after April 15, 2015, to be a Wisconsin resident who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, and meet certain other conditions. I worked closely with the County Veteran Service Officers Association of Wisconsin, who fully supports this common-sense proposal.

I am grateful my co-author, Rep. Edming, for his work on this legislation. Thank you for your time today, and thank you for your consideration of this bill.



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# JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 416**

*Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs*  
October 5, 2023

Committee members, thank you for allowing me to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill (SB) 416. Thank you to Chairman Testin for working with me on this legislation.

This bill eliminates unnecessary red tape from the Department of Veterans Affairs' grant program for county veteran service offices. Under current law, for a county to be eligible for this grant their county veteran service officer (CVSO), if hired after April 15<sup>th</sup> of 2015, must have either taken a civil service examination for the position developed by the Bureau of Merit Recruitment and Selection at the Department of Administration or have been appointed under a civil service competitive examination procedure. However, this exam covers very little of the job duties that CVSOs perform and is just an unnecessary hurdle for counties to receive the county veteran service office grant. SB 416 simply eliminates this exam requirement.

This legislation is brought forward at the request of the County Veteran Service Officers Association of Wisconsin and has the support of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I ask for your support of SB 416 and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.