

Rep. Felzkowski: Veterans bill signed into law

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Bill expands outreach and recovery to Vets

Madison, WI – Yesterday, Governor Scott Walker signed Act 295 into law, a bill that will extend and expand the Veteran’s Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP), which recently lost its federal funding. The bill, authored by Representative Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) and Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon), will provide relief to veterans who need our assistance.

Previously, VORP had been implemented in 49 of the state’s 72 counties, with a focus in northern and central Wisconsin. This bill will allow the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to expand the program statewide using a ten region system, ensuring that veterans in every corner of the state can find the necessary resources they require. In addition, the bill will allow DVA to widen the scope of those who are eligible to receive treatment, increasing access to former and current military members who are in need of substance abuse treatment, mental health support, and housing assistance.

Rep. Felzkowski commented, “We heard a lot of emotional testimony throughout this process, and it just goes to show how important this legislation is. We have County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) and Outreach and Recovery Specialists (ORS) all around the state that are willing to do whatever it takes to help our veterans in their time of need. They deserve the support this program offers, and I am so proud of everyone that is involved.”

Rep. Felzkowski added, “These brave men and women of our armed forces have

answered our nation's call to fight for our freedoms every day, it's our turn to fight for them. This bill will assure those who have risked everything that they're not alone, they have our full support."