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**Wanggaard Calls on Milwaukee to Reverse Anti-Veteran Move**  
Police and Fire Commission Downgrades Veterans In Hiring

MADISON – Senator Van Wanggaard is urging the city of Milwaukee to restore veterans’ preference points for hiring police officers and firefighters. Last month, the Milwaukee Police and Fire Commission (PFC) reduced the preference given to disabled veterans by at least 80%, decreasing the likelihood they will be hired for open positions in the Milwaukee police and fire departments.

“This is bureaucratic government run amok. It is insulting to every veteran and active duty military serviceperson in our state,” said Wanggaard, the chair of the State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. “The Milwaukee PFC is literally putting veterans at the back of the line for new hires. It’s mindboggling, unacceptable and un-American.”

Preference points are given to eligible candidates who pass an entry level examination. Those that pass the examination can gain additional “preference” points for hiring, depending on certain criteria. Prior to the PFC’s action, disabled veterans were eligible for 15 preference points in hiring. Veterans with a disability greater than 30% were eligible for 20 preference points. As a result of the PFC action, the most points any veteran can receive is 3 points. Veterans and disabled veterans will now receive less preference in hiring than someone who just happens to live within boundaries of the city of Milwaukee, and no more than someone who took 2 years of police or fire science training.

“Milwaukee is already shorthanded in the number of police and fire officers, and this action will only make matters worse,” Wanggaard said. “Veterans are pillars of our communities, and dedicated public servants. Choosing geography and classwork over military service for these positions is shortsighted at best, and mean-spirited at worse. Milwaukee should reverse this wrongheaded decision.

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