



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

July 21, 2017

Mr. Jeffery Quarles, Director
VA Homeless Providers GPD Program Office
Department of Veterans Affairs
10770 North 46th Street, Suite C-200
Tampa, FL 33617

Mr. Jeffery Quarles:

We would like to express our profound disappointment that both the Wisconsin Veterans Housing and Recovery Programs at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove and the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King were recently denied funding. We respectfully request the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reconsider its decision to not renew the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program grants for these housing programs at Wisconsin's facilities for veterans. We are also requesting our federal delegation's assistance and advocacy to accomplish this appeal.

Homeless veterans in our state will undoubtedly suffer without this vital funding which they have relied on since 1997 at the Veterans Home in Union Grove and since 1995 at the Veterans Home at King. In fact, the Veterans Home at King was the first in the country to be a part of this program and to receive funding for this laudable and necessary cause. This loss of funding will directly impact the 49 veterans who are currently housed under both of these programs, and surely many more in the future.

For some homeless veterans in our state, especially those in more northern and rural areas, there is simply an absence of necessary resources available to assist these individuals. Without the funding for these programs at King and Union Grove, there will be a lack of options for homeless veterans in certain areas of Wisconsin.

However, we are proud of the work our Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is doing to mitigate this damaging cut in funding and to ensure each of these veterans gets the housing and assistance they need. Going forward, we know WDVA is working very closely with veteran services organizations, the VA in Milwaukee, and other veteran partners. We are happy to hear of the WDVA's confidence in its ability to find housing for all 49 veterans in its current programs by September, and that WDVA will continue to follow-up with these veterans after placement. We are confident WDVA will not leave homeless veterans without options in the future, but understand this lack of funding will greatly impact their opportunities going forward.

These veterans have made great sacrifices in their service for our country and deserve this assistance in their time of need. They have, without question, earned it. This is why we again reiterate our sincere hope that you will reconsider this decision. We are interested to hear why these veterans housing programs were not granted the necessary funding and how you will strengthen your partnership with WDVA on this issue going forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



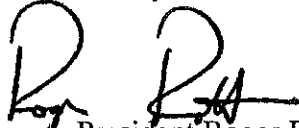
Assembly Speaker Robin J. Vos
63rd Assembly District



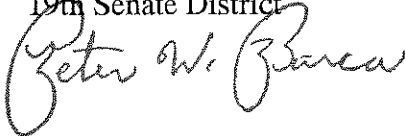
Senator Van Wanggaard
21st Senate District



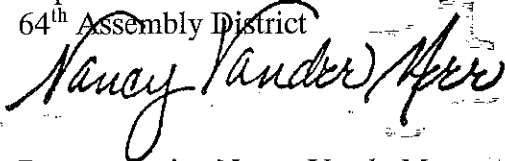
Representative Kevin Petersen
40th Assembly District



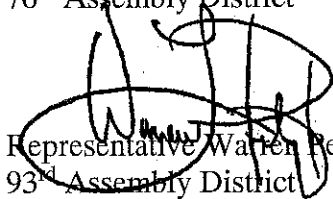
Senate President Roger Roth
19th Senate District



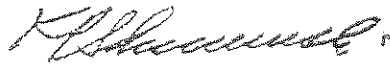
Representative Peter Barca
64th Assembly District



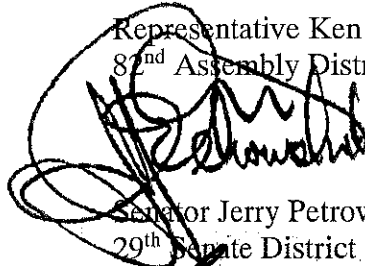
Representative Nancy VanderMeer
70th Assembly District



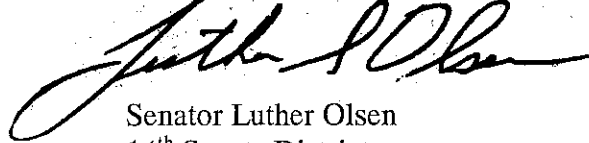
Representative Warren Petryk
93rd Assembly District



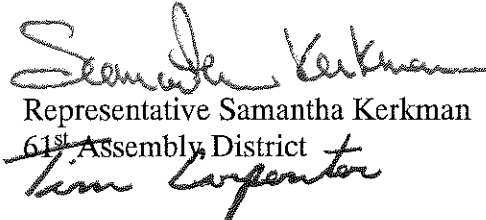
Representative Ken Skowronski
82nd Assembly District



Senator Jerry Petrowski
29th Senate District



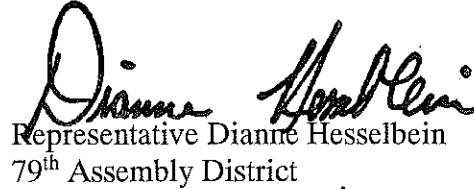
Senator Luther Olsen
14th Senate District



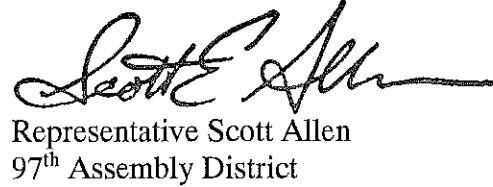
Representative Samantha Kerkman
61st Assembly District



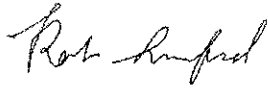
Senator Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District



Representative Dianne Hesselbein
79th Assembly District



Representative Scott Allen
97th Assembly District



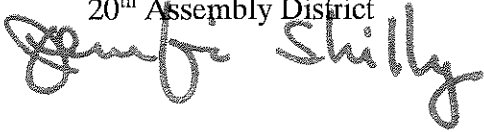
Representative Rob Summerfield
67th Assembly District



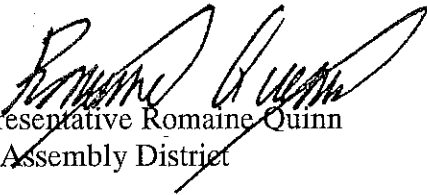
Representative Paul Tittl
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Representative Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District



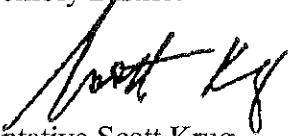
Senator Jennifer Shilling
32nd Senate District



Representative Romaine Quinn
75th Assembly District



Representative Joan Ballweg
41st Assembly District



Representative Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District



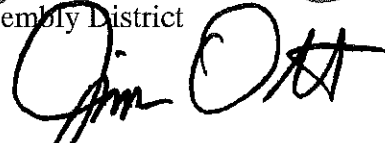
Representative Travis Tranel
49th Assembly District



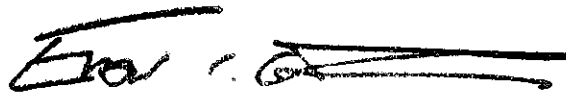
Senator Dan Feyen
18th Senate District



Representative Nick Milroy
73rd Assembly District



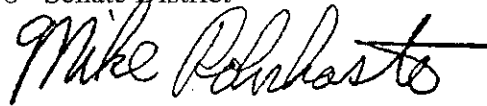
Representative Jim Ott
23rd Assembly District



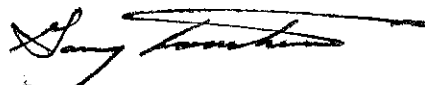
Representative Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District



Senator Alberta Darling
8th Senate District



Representative Mike Rohrkaste
55th Assembly District



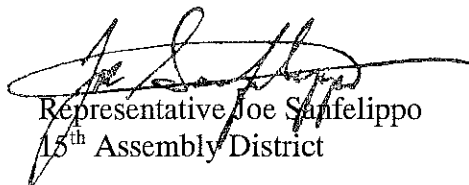
Representative Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District



Representative Bob Gannon
58th Assembly District



Representative Jeff Mursau
36th Assembly District



Representative Joe Sanfelippo
15th Assembly District

Representative Chris Taylor
76th Assembly District

Representative Todd Novak
51st Assembly District

Representative Cindi Duchow
99th Assembly District

Representative Adam Jarchow
28th Assembly District

Representative Mary Felzkowski
35th Assembly District

Senator LaTonya Johnson
6th Assembly District

Representative Rob Swearingen
34th Assembly District

Representative John Spiros
86th Assembly District

Senator Jon Erpenbach
27th Senate District

Senator Janis Ringhand
15th Senate District

Representative Lisa Subeck
78th Assembly District

Representative Tod Ohnstad
65th Assembly District

Representative Keith Ripp
42nd Assembly District

Representative Amanda Stuck
57th Assembly District

Representative Jill Billings
95th Assembly District


Representative Dana Wachs
91st Assembly District


Representative Mark Spreitzer
45th Assembly District


Representative Jason Fields
11th Assembly District


Representative Steve Doyle
94th Assembly District


Senator Lena Taylor
4th Senate District

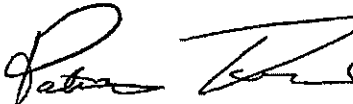

Representative Melissa Sargent
48th Assembly District



Senator Chris Larson
7th Senate District



Representative John Nygren
89th Assembly District

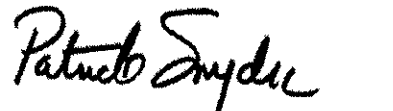

Representative Katrina Shankland
71st Assembly District



Representative Cody Horlacher
33rd Assembly District

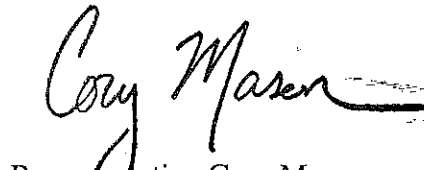

Senator Patrick Testin
24th Senate District

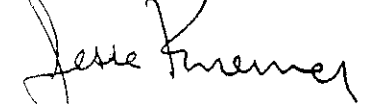

Senator Janet Bewley
25th Senate District



Representative Kathy Bernier
68th Assembly District



Representative Patrick Snyder
88th Assembly District

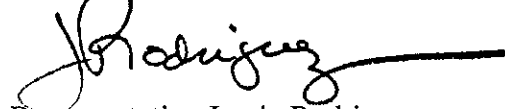

Representative Eric Genrich
90th Assembly District



Representative Cory Mason
66th Assembly District



Representative Jesse Kremer
59th Assembly District

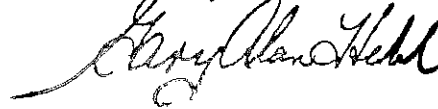

Senator Robert Wirch
22nd Senate District

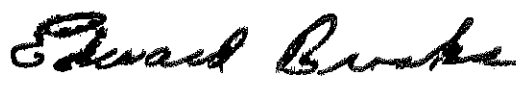

Senator Sheila Harsdorf
10th Senate District


Representative Jessie Rodriguez
21st Assembly District


Representative Terese Berceau
77th Assembly District


Representative Gordon Hintz
54th Assembly District

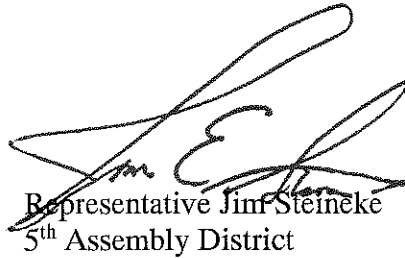

Representative Gary Hebl
46th Assembly District


Representative Ed Brooks
50th Assembly District

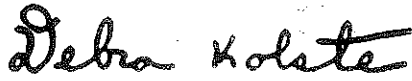

Representative Beth Meyers
74th Assembly District



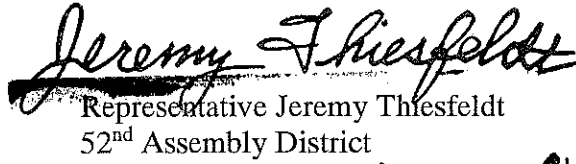
Representative Terry Katsma
26th Assembly District



Representative Jim Steineke
5th Assembly District



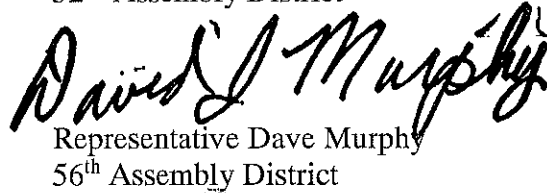
Representative Debra Kolste
44th Assembly District



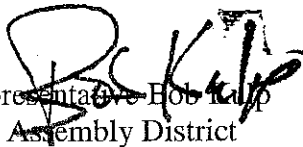
Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt
52nd Assembly District



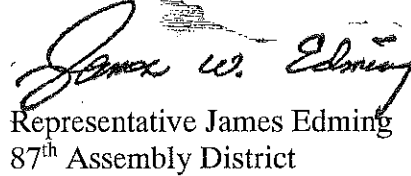
Senator Kathleen Vinehout
31st Senate District



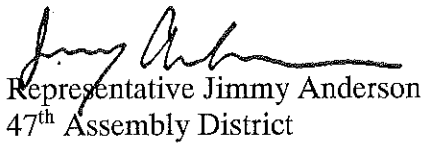
Representative Dave Murphy
56th Assembly District



Representative Bob Karp
69th Assembly District



Representative James Edming
87th Assembly District



Representative Jimmy Anderson
47th Assembly District

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Senator Tammy Baldwin
Speaker Paul Ryan
Congressman Mark Pocan
Congressman Ron Kind
Congresswoman Gwen Moore
Congressman James Sensenbrenner
Congressman Glenn Grothman
Congressman Sean Duffy
Congressman Mike Gallagher