



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

September 21, 2017

Office of Governor Scott Walker
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

As the Democratic members of the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, we are writing to you today to express our serious disappointment with your decision to veto language from the state budget that would strengthen oversight of the Veterans Trust Fund and provide more accountability within the state's Department of Veteran Affairs. We do not believe the brief explanation outlined in the veto memo your office released yesterday provides sufficient justification for your decision to strike this language from the budget and are requesting additional information regarding your rationale in arriving at this decision.

As you are aware, the DVA motion you struck from the budget was approved by the Joint Committee on Finance with a bipartisan 16-0 vote. Legislators on both sides of the aisle have clearly come to recognize the importance of inserting stronger oversight and accountability language into state statute to protect our aging veterans and the funds that are meant to be used to provide for their care. Media reports have repeatedly highlighted actions taken by your administration that have diverted millions of dollars away from our state's veterans homes for use on other projects.

By striking this language from the budget, it is our fear that your administration will continue to funnel more dollars away from our veteran care facilities at a time when the need for major repairs and improvements at these homes has never been greater. It is a disservice to our state's veterans living in those facilities and the brief justification included in your veto memo yesterday is insufficient.

Thank you for taking the time to review our concerns. Wisconsin's veterans and the quality of care they receive at our state's veterans homes should be a top priority of your administration. We look forward to your response and continuing to engage with your office and the Department of Veterans Affairs on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dianne Hesselbein
State Representative
79th Assembly District

Nick Milroy
State Representative
73rd Assembly District

Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District

Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District

Daniel Riemer
State Representative
7th Assembly District