

Resolution 1-17

Encourage Wisconsin State Legislature to Preserve Current Statutory Requirement for County Veterans Service Officer

WHEREAS, each of the 72 counties in Wisconsin are required to have a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) and many, due to workload, also have an assistant CVSO, both of whom must be veterans; and

WHEREAS, these individuals provide an invaluable service to the veterans of their respective communities, especially in rural counties with limited services for veterans; and

WHEREAS, 95% of veteran claims in Wisconsin originate in a county Veterans Service Office as a result of personal contact with these veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of the State's CVSOs, Wisconsin veterans have realized more than \$2.5 billion in well-deserved federal benefits as a result of their service; and

WHEREAS, the CVSO Grant was created in 1973 to assist counties in providing Veterans Services and allowing CVSOs to utilize these funds as long as it was for the benefit of veterans and did not go to another department or the county general purpose funds; and

WHEREAS, current rules concerning CVSO grants have had a negative impact on the ability of rural counties to support their veteran populations.

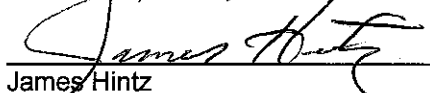
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Price County join other counties in opposing the removing of the requirement that the CVSO position be filled by veterans, while simultaneously support efforts to reinstitute CVSO grants as they were originally formulated and to form a task force to objectively study and seek long term resolutions to actual hurdles to veterans outreach and delivery, so as to enhance the current access and advocacy system for Wisconsin's veterans.

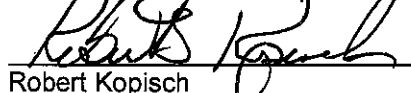
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Walker, Senator Janet Bewley, Representative Beth Meyers, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs and the President of the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officer Association.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee


Bruce Jilka, Chair

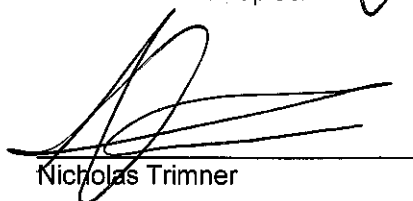

Ronald Heikkinen


James Hintz


Robert Kopisch


Larry Palacek

Reviewed by County Administrator:


Nicholas Trimmer

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of February, 2017.


Bruce Jilka, County Board Chair


Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For: 13 Against: 0