



Date: February 27, 2014

To: Members of the Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs

From: Representative Petryk

Re: Testimony regarding Assembly Bill 734

Good Morning Chairman Petrowski and members of the Committee. I appreciate this opportunity to come before the Committee today to speak in favor of Assembly Bill 734.

The Assembly Committee on Veterans was charged with reviewing the state's administrative codes for the Department of Veterans Affairs as part of the Assembly's "Right the Rules" process. The journey to develop this legislation has been long and productive. Our committee's process consisted of a Committee Meeting (Nov. 7, 2013) where we heard from leaders of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Our committee also held a Public Hearing (Dec. 17, 2013) where stakeholders had their opportunity to weigh-in on potential changes to the administrative code. Finally, the Assembly Committee on Veterans held an Executive Session and voted on passage of AB 734 on February 12, 2014.

In a bi-partisan fashion, we crafted the legislation before you that satisfies the needs of the Department as well as the concerns from our stakeholders. The bill assists the Department in the elimination of erroneous language and brings the administrative codes up-to-date. With these changes, the Department can more effectively assist our state's heroes who selflessly served our country.

I am proud of the work the Assembly Committee on Veterans did and for the assistance and guidance from the Department. I am happy to report that the Assembly passed AB 734 on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Department is here today to answer specific questions from the members of the Committee.

Thank you again for your time.



# *Military Order of the Purple Heart*

## *Department of Wisconsin*



Fuzz Spangler  
WI MOPH Department Commander  
415 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richland Center, WI 53581

February 25, 2014

**Senator Petrowski and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on  
Transportation, Public Safety and Veterans and Military Affairs;**

I am unable to attend the public hearing you are holding February 27<sup>th</sup> regarding the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs proposed rule changes to the VA Administrative Code. Our State Legislative Officer, Jason Johns, is also unable to attend due to travel. I wish to share with you the following message from me:

As an old World War II veteran, who considers it a blessing to wake up every day, I will get right to the point at hand. The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Wisconsin supports all of the proposed rule changes to the VA code and sees the new/revised language as needed action in order to allow the WDVA to serve our members to the best of their ability, without being hampered by outdated or inapplicable administrative rules. In many cases, the rules need to be "righted" in order to comply with newer federal rules/statutes as well as our own state's changes at agencies such as DHS. Finally, there is often confusion and lack of knowledge as to how monies from the ever -important Veterans Trust Fund are being disbursed in form of grants to various veterans' organizations. We are pleased to see that the WDVA has made efforts in these proposed rule changes to shine more light and accountability on the grant application process and the MOPH is happy to support them.

I encourage you and your fellow members of the Veterans Committee to join the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Wisconsin and support AB 734

Best regards,

Fuzz

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



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**February 12, 2014**

**Chairman Petryk & Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs;**

Due to a prior scheduling conflict I am unable to be there today but have asked our State Legislative Committee Chairman Jason Johns to read you the following statement on my behalf.

In our ongoing efforts to serve our comrades around the state of Wisconsin, the Veterans of Foreign Wars strives to improve and increase the ability for not only our selves, but also our state agencies, most importantly the Department of Veterans Affairs, to have everything they need to serve our veterans. We believe that the proposed rule changes before you today fit right in to this mission and should receive your support.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin considers the WDVA and ally and partner in striving to take the very best care of our states' veterans. By updating, improving, and making the rules that they abide by more efficient and pertinent, they will be able to do so without unnecessary burdens that ultimately only hurt our veterans.

Thank you for your consideration of these changes. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin looks forward to their implementation in a timely manner. The sooner the better.

Renee Simpson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Renee Simpson'.

Commander  
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Wisconsin