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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 505
Resident Tuition for Members of the National Guard and Reserves
January 19, 2016

Good morning, Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 505, which would provide an exemption from nonresident tuition at the University of Wisconsin System to nonresident members of the Wisconsin National Guard or a reserve unit of the armed forces.

Under current law, a person must reside in the state of Wisconsin for at least 12 months before registering with a University of Wisconsin institution in order to be eligible for in-state tuition. Currently, there are no exceptions for individuals who move to Wisconsin and are serving in the Wisconsin National Guard or in a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces.

Senate Bill 505 would reduce the time it takes to qualify for in-state tuition for members of the National Guard or Reserves to six months. In order to qualify for in-state tuition the individual must reside in Wisconsin for six months prior to registering at a UW institution and must be a member of the Wisconsin National Guard or in a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces for that entire six-month period. They must either continue to serve in their guard or reserve unit while enrolled at a UW institution or be *honorably* discharged.

From conversations with the UW, this bill will affect an estimated 70 individuals, and thus will have a limited fiscal impact. More importantly, the bill will provide tuition relief for individuals who move to Wisconsin and choose to serve our state and nation in the National Guard or Reserves.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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