WOOD COUNTY

RESOLUTION# 16-8-5

 Introduced by Health and Human Services

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Motion: 
1st Feier, 
2nd Breu,
No: 0 Yes: 18 Absent: 1

Number of votes required: 
X Majority [] Two-thirds
Reviewed by: PAR, Corp Counsel
Reviewed by: [Space], Finance Dir.

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To oppose efforts to regionalize or make County Veteran Service Officers optional.

FISCAL NOTE: None.

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Section 45.80 requires each county to elect a County Veteran Service Officer who is a Wisconsin resident and who served under honorable conditions on active duty in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, County Veteran Service Officers are responsible for 95% of veterans claims at any given time at the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, County Veteran Service Officers assist Wisconsin veterans with obtaining more than $2.5 billion in VA benefits annually; and

WHEREAS, the Wood County Veteran Service Officer assist Wood county veterans with obtaining more than $51 million in annual VA and state veterans benefits; and

WHEREAS, County Veteran Service Officers are the only local veterans' advocates when dealing with the state and federal VA programs; and

WHEREAS, County Veteran Service Officers provide veterans solutions using veteran specific resources freeing up other limited costly services for the non-veteran county residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to join other counties in the state of Wisconsin, to express their desire to the Wisconsin State Legislature adamantly opposing any efforts to make County Veteran Service officers optional, to allow non-veterans to fill the position of County Veteran Service Officer, and/or to consolidate or regionalize County Veteran Service Officers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, all Wood County’s State Senators and Assembly Representatives, to the Wisconsin Counties Association, and to the president of the County Veteran Service Officers Association of Wisconsin.

DONNA ROZAR (Chairperson)
BILL CLENDENNING (Vice-Chair)
PETER HENDLER
MARION HOKAMP
DENNIS POLACH

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this 16th day of August 2016

Cynthia Copsar
County Clerk

JEFFREY KOSZCZUK, D.O.
LORI SLATTERY-SMITH, R.N.
TOM BUTTKE
JESSICA VICTENTE

County Board Chairman