



Taylor County Board Office



JIM METZ, Chair
715-748-1404

LINDA DANIELS

County Board Administrative Assistant
715-748-1401
linda.daniels@co.taylor.wi.us

CAROL ZIEMER

Receptionist
715-748-1400
carol.ziemer@co.taylor.wi.us

April 25, 2016

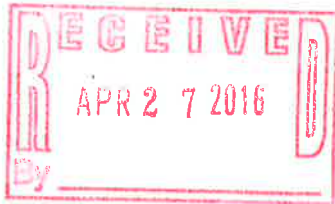
Wisconsin Counties Association
ATTN: KYLE CHRISTIANSON
22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 900
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Christianson:

Please find the enclosed Resolution No. 1 which were adopted by the Taylor County Board of Supervisors at the April 19, 2016, Session. We would appreciate your support on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Metz, Chair
Taylor County Board of Supervisors



Enclosure

AMENDMENT: In last paragraph, delete '15th day of March', and insert '19th day of April'.
Docket No. 2016-2-11

RESOLUTION NO. 1

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHANGES TO SECTION 45.80, WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES.

WHEREAS, recent legislation in the form of LRB 4524/AB 821/SB 668 has been written proposing significant changes to County Veteran Service Offices and other veteran related issues; and,

WHEREAS, the County Veteran Service Officer is a long-standing, successful and cost efficient program in Taylor County; and,

WHEREAS, the County Veteran Service Officer is the local keystone to an integral support network of local, state and federal benefits for the veterans of Taylor County; and,

WHEREAS, changing the law to make it optional to hire a County Veteran Service Officer weakens the position of County Veteran Service Officer and threatens the services provided to veterans; and,

WHEREAS, assigning the duties of County Veteran Service Officer to a non-veteran will significantly reduce the desire for veterans to seek assistance; and,

WHEREAS, moving the County Veteran Service Officer duties to a different county department will significantly reduce the desire for veterans to seek assistance; and,

WHEREAS, removing the requirement of a county to provide space and administrative support for the County Veteran Service Officer will limit the access to veteran benefits; and,

WHEREAS, there exists in current law sufficient flexibility for a county to adjust the employment status of a County Veteran Service Office and its employees as they see fit; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Board of Veteran Affairs provides a valuable service in its oversight of the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs; and,


WHEREAS, a regional consortium of veteran service offices will limit access to veteran advocates by requiring long distance traveling and extend the time frame of receiving services.

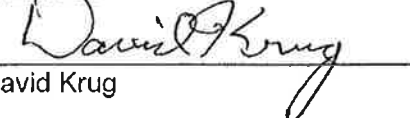
THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that this Taylor County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled on this 15th day of March, 2016, hereby approves this resolution opposing any changes to Section 45.80, Wisconsin State Statutes, unless it can be clearly shown how it improves service to veterans and/or provides better financial and organizational service to the state and counties, and until the state County Veteran Service Office Association, veteran service organizations, and the public have a chance for involvement.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

TAYLOR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE:


Raymond Soper


Robert Lee


David Krug