INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To return the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) grants to Counties and Tribes for improvement of services to a block grant.

FISCAL NOTE: None

WHEREAS, the WDVA grant was created in 1973 to assist counties in providing Veteran Services and allowing counties to utilize these fund for anything as long as it was for the benefit of veterans and did not go to another department or the county general purpose fund; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-2017 Wisconsin Biennium Budget restructured this long-standing grant block payment structure to a reimbursement only payment structure, and has resulted in a very cumbersome program that no longer allows salary supplementation, and contains complicated rules of limited eligible reimbursable costs, which now create fiscal constraints on Wisconsin counties that benefitted from the previous block grant payment structure; and

WHEREAS, the new restructured reimbursement grant has limited what the grant funds can be used for, requires counties to expend funds that often are denied reimbursement, resulting in budget shortfalls and counties being unable to receive the entire available grant amount.

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 to have the WDVA grant to counties and tribes reestablished to the original 1973 intent of a block grant for improvement of services to veterans including the supplementation of salary.

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.