

Resolution No. 78-03/21

Supporting the Federal Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (The Act)

1 Moved/Sponsored by the Health and Human Services Board

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3 **WHEREAS**, the number of Veteran suicides continues to rise nationwide, and approximately 14
4 out of 20 Veterans who currently die by suicide are not under United States Department of
5 Affairs' (VA) care; and,

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7 **WHEREAS**, County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) and Tribal Veteran Service Officers
8 (TVSO) are often the first point of contact in the local community for Veteran's services, and
9 these Officers provide assistance to Veterans regarding a wide range of benefits, including
10 mental health services, service-connected disability and pension VA benefits, enrollment in VA
11 healthcare, VA home loans, education benefits and available job placement assistance; and,

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13 **WHEREAS**, Veterans are not always aware of available benefits, and CVSOs/TVSOs are often
14 the first to inform Veterans of their eligibility. CVSO's county employees are nationally
15 accredited by the VA to prepare, present, and prosecute VA claims, but currently there is no
16 Federal funding available for CVSOs; and,

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18 **WHEREAS**, there is legislation pending in the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate known as the
19 "*Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act* (The Act). The Act also includes TVSOs.
20 The Act authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with States and/or to
21 awards grants to States to promote Veterans' health and wellness, prevent suicide, improve
22 outreach to Veterans, support activities to assist in the development and submittal of claims
23 (training), and create new CVSO offices in states without CVSOs. If passed, the Act will
24 authorize \$50 Million annually for five years to support these initiatives and to provide support
25 to CVSO/TVSO offices which currently assist Veterans and their survivors with obtaining over
26 \$50 Billion in VA benefits annually.

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28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
29 hereby supports the passage of pending legislation in the United States Congress known as the
30 "*Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act*".

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32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Clerk is hereby authorized and
33 directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Walworth County Veterans Service Officer
34 Association, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the State of Wisconsin Department of
35 Veteran's Affairs; the National Association of Counties, the National Association of County
36 Veterans Service Officers, U.S. Congressmen Bryan Steil and Scott Fitzgerald, and U.S.
37 Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson.