

2 **RESOLUTION: Support the Commitment to Veterans Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act**

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TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

6 **WHEREAS**, the number of veteran suicides continues to rise nationwide. Approximately fourteen (14) of the
7 twenty (20) veterans who die by suicide each day are not under the care of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
8 We must undertake a national approach to identify these veterans and where they live; and

9 **WHEREAS**, County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) are normally the first point of contact when a
10 veteran transitions from active duty status to civilian life. CVSOs provide assistance on a wide range of benefits,
11 including service-connected benefits, enrollment in the VA health care system, VA home loans, VA education
12 benefits, and assistance with job placement where available; and

13 **WHEREAS**, transitioning veterans are not always aware of benefits they may be eligible for, and CVSOs are
14 often the first to inform veterans of these available benefits; and

15 **WHEREAS**, CVSOs are employed by counties and are nationally accredited to prepare, present, and
16 prosecute these claims on behalf of veterans; and

17 **WHEREAS**, there is no direct federal funding currently available for CVSOs and TVSOs (Tribal Veterans
18 Service Officers); and

19 **WHEREAS**, there is legislation currently pending in both houses of Congress, known as the "Commitment to
20 Veteran Support and Outreach Act (SB-3020 / AB-5516), which would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to
21 enter into contracts with the individual states, or to award grants to states to promote health and wellness, help
22 prevent veteran suicide, and improve outreach to veterans; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the CVSO Act would provide for \$50 Million annually for five (5) years to expand outreach and
24 support CVSOs, TVSOs, or similar entities who currently assist veterans in obtaining over \$50 Billion annually; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County has been a front-runner in working with our federal legislators in the
26 development and presentation of said legislation since 2017.

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28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
29 supports this pending legislation in both houses of Congress, known as the "Commitment to Veteran Support and
30 Outreach Act (SB-3020 / AB-5516) that authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts or award
31 grants directly to individual states to help prevent suicide, and to promote the health and wellness and improve
32 outreach to veterans.

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34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it directs the Winnebago
35 County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to all other Wisconsin counties, the Winnebago County Veterans
36 Service Officer, all tribal veterans service officers, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs, the
37 National Association of Counties (NACo), Veterans and Military Services Committee, the National Association of
38 County Veterans Service Officers (NAVCVSO), the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin
39 (CVSOA-WI), and the Wisconsin State Association of County Veterans Service Commissions (WSACVSC)

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Respectfully submitted by:
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Committee Vote: _____

Vote Required for Passage: **Three-Quarters of Those Members Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive