



Reply to:
Veterans Service Office
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July 19, 2021

The Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act

1. The County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin supports the passage of the “Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act.”
2. The number of Veteran suicides continues to rise nationwide, and approximately 14 out of 20 Veterans who currently die by suicide are not under United States Department of Affairs’ (VA) care. County Veteran Service Officers and Tribal Veteran Service Officers (C/TVSOs) are often the first point of contact in the local community for Veterans services, and these Officers provide assistance to Veterans regarding a wide range of benefits, including mental health services, VA disability and pension benefits, enrollment in VA healthcare, VA home loans, education benefits, and available job placement assistance.
3. Veterans are not always aware of available benefits, and C/TVSOs are often the first to inform Veterans of their eligibility. CVSO’s are county employees who are nationally accredited by the VA to prepare, present, and prosecute VA claims, but currently there is no Federal funding available for CVSO. TVSOs are employees of their Federally Recognized Tribal Governments and likewise are nationally accredited by the VA and are also receive no designated Federal funding. This legislation will start to address the needs of this vital resource to veterans and their families.
4. The Association point of Contact for this matter is, Nathan M. Bond, Legislative Committee Chair, at 262-741-4250.

Sincerely,

Andy Miller
President,
CVSO Association of Wisconsin