



REP. HESSELBEIN VETERANS BILL UNANIMOUSLY PASSES ASSEMBLY

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Assembly Bill 201, introduced by Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton), passed the Assembly today on a unanimous vote. AB 201 gives veterans priority in registering for courses within the University of Wisconsin System and the state's technical colleges. "I am thrilled by the strong bipartisan support that led to AB 201 being heard and voted on in committee, and then scheduled and voted on by the full Assembly," Hesselbein states.

AB 201 resulted by an idea proposed to the Middleton Democrat by an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, David Tucek, now a student at the UW-Milwaukee. "Often students who are veterans cannot gain access to needed courses in time to complete their degrees before their education benefits end," Hesselbein continues. "Some veteran grants have time limits that expire after a set amount of time of education time. Being able to enroll in all the required courses within that timeframe is not always currently possible due to limits and registration restrictions for specific classes."

Rep. Hesselbein explained her concern for those students who are veterans, "Many veterans return to Wisconsin with young families, and many work full time to support them while studying to improve their future. They are already behind their peers because of the time they took, and the risks they took, to serve and protect us all. Helping them with course registration priority is just a small way we can serve them for the time they spent serving our nation."

Hesselbein is grateful for the assistance of fellow committee members who helped make the bill better, and thanked both veterans and veteran organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Order of the Purple Heart for their endorsement of the bill. AB 201 now goes to the Senate for their action. Hesselbein will continue to work with her legislative colleagues on both sides of the aisle to guide it through the other house.

Concluding her remarks before the Assembly today, Hesselbein said, "Finally, I thank those who have our full gratitude: our Wisconsin veterans and the military men and women serving and protecting our freedoms today."

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