Wisconsin State Senator
PAM GALLOWAY
Senate District 29

Testimony of Senator Pam Galloway
January 4, 2012
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Veterans and Military Affairs
Senate Bill 338 & Senate Bill 339

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and fellow Committee Members for hearing both Senate Bill 338 and 339 this morning. I know that Representative Wynn is testifying with us today on these bills as well so I will keep my comments brief. Senate Bill 338 is aimed at promoting Wisconsin to veterans as a great place to start a business and locate their families to by providing those qualified veterans with one free professional license from the State of Wisconsin.

Many separating veterans possess highly sought after skills as a result of their training, education and occupational specialties. These individuals have many options of where they can live and possibly start a new business or medical practice. The bill before us today would provide that an eligible veteran would be able to obtain one license for free, and only applies to licenses traditionally issued to individuals, not to businesses.

The other bill before us today, Senate Bill 339 modifies Wisconsin's disabled veterans appointment program and would mirror a similar policy for federal civil service positions. Our proposed legislation would allow for a disabled veteran to be non-competitively appointed to a non-professional or entry-level classified civil service position by a state agency on a voluntary basis. The veteran would still need to be qualified for the position for which they would be appointed to and would need to be certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as having a compensable service connected disability of at least 30% or more.

Our state has long prided itself on honoring the service and sacrifice of both still serving Armed Forces members and veterans alike. These two bills would only add to that positive legacy and be an excellent addition to Wisconsin's existing veterans programs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today and I will turn it over to Representative Wynn for his testimony.

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