



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 14, 2024

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## **Bipartisan National Guard Tuition Bill, Co-Authored by Senator Hesselbein and Representative Joers Signed Into Law**

MADISON, Wis – Today, Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 744 into law as 2023 Act 117. Act 117 was co-authored by Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D - Middleton) and Representative Alex Joers (D - Middleton) with Senator Pat Testin (R - Stevens Point) and Representative Cindi Duchow (R - Town of Delafield).

This legislation makes an important and helpful procedural change for the National Guard tuition grant program. Under this bill, instead of reimbursing tuition to the student after a semester, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) will pay tuition directly to the educational institution at the beginning of the semester. The law change has the potential to close the financial gap for hundreds of students so they do not have to take out expensive student loans while they wait for a reimbursement.

**Representative Alex Joers:** “We owe a debt of gratitude to our Wisconsin National Guard for their dedication to serving our state. The current process for National Guard members to seek tuition coverage is unnecessarily difficult and creates a significant financial burden for those seeking higher education. It is far past time that we address this barrier and make education more accessible for our National Guard members. This legislation is a common sense solution, and I’m thrilled to see this important change become law.”

**Senator Dianne Hesselbein:** “The idea for this legislation was brought to me in 2020 by a constituent who is also a veteran and works with service members enrolling in secondary education. I am proud to be a part of this common-sense, bipartisan proposal to improve college accessibility for members of the Wisconsin National Guard.”

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