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**Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 38**  
*Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities*  
March 4, 2021

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for holding this public hearing today and giving me the opportunity to speak to you in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 38. I would like to thank Senator Jacque for working with me on this important legislation.

As our men and women in the armed forces transition from the military back in to civilian life, many look at continuing their education at one of our state's outstanding public universities or technical colleges. AB 38 helps reduce the financial burden on these folks by waving the application fee charged when applying at these institutions. While the cost of a college application fee may not seem like a big deal, for a veteran struggling financially it could be the difference that keeps them from applying for college in the first place or to the educational institution that they really want to attend.

Currently application fees are being waived at many institutions due to COVID-19. However, once this waiver period ends the application fee at most UW System institutions will be \$25. If a veteran wishes to apply at five of our state's four-year campuses this would cost them \$125 just to apply with no guarantee of admission. If a veteran really wants to attend UW-Madison where admission is more difficult but can only afford the application fees to apply at a couple of campuses, they may decide to apply elsewhere where it is more likely for them to be admitted. When someone who has served our country is looking at continuing their education, they should be able to apply to any school that they wish to attend, regardless of their financial situation.

AB 38 says thank you to those who have served our nation by allowing our veterans and service members to apply to any of our state's public colleges and universities without having to worry about paying the application fee. Also, by encouraging our veterans to attend college in Wisconsin it increases the likelihood that they stay in our state and become part of our workforce after they complete their education.

Mr. Chairman and members, I ask for your support of this legislation and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.