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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 94**  
*Senate Committee on Universities and Revenue*  
August 23, 2023

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for holding this public hearing today and allowing me to speak to you in support of Senate Bill (SB) 94.

As our brave men and women in the armed forces transition from the military back into civilian life, many look to continue their education at one of our state's outstanding public universities or technical colleges. SB 94 reduces the financial burden on these folks by waiving the application fee charged by these institutions. While the cost of a college application fee may not seem like a big deal, for a veteran or service member struggling financially, it could be what keeps them from applying to the educational institution they really want to attend or from applying for college at all.

While some institutions are currently waiving application fees in an effort to increase enrollment, this may not always be the case. Of the public technical colleges and universities charging application fees at this time, most are in the \$25-\$30 range. Our state's flagship university, UW-Madison, is a bit higher at \$60. A veteran or service member who can only afford to apply to one or two schools will likely choose to apply to schools where they are more likely to be admitted. If a veteran wants to continue their education at a school with a lower acceptance rate like our state's flagship university UW-Madison, their financial situation should not prevent them from doing so. Nor should they have to limit the number of schools they apply to because of fees.

SB 94 says thank you to those who have served our nation by removing a financial barrier for veterans and service members who want to continue their education at a Wisconsin technical college or public university. An added benefit of this proposal is that by encouraging veterans to attend college in Wisconsin, it increases the likelihood that they stay in our state and become part of our workforce when they complete their education.

Mr. Chairman and members, thank you for your consideration. I hope you will join me in supporting this legislation.