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# JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## **Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 424**

*Assembly Committee on Local Government*

November 16, 2023

Committee members, thank you for allowing me to speak to you today in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 424. I appreciate Senator Testin working with me on this legislation.

This bill eliminates unnecessary red tape from the Department of Veterans Affairs' grant program for county veteran service offices. Under current law, for a county to be eligible for this grant their county veteran service officer (CVSO), if hired after April 15<sup>th</sup> of 2015, must have either taken a civil service examination for the position developed by the Bureau of Merit Recruitment and Selection at the Department of Administration or have been appointed under a civil service competitive examination procedure. However, this exam covers very little of the job duties that CVSOs perform and is just an unnecessary hurdle for counties to receive the county veteran service office grant. AB 424 simply eliminates this exam requirement.

This legislation is brought forward at the request of the County Veteran Service Officers Association of Wisconsin and has the support of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Senate has already approved the companion bill to AB 424 on a voice vote and I ask for your support of this proposal as well. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.