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Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 663
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
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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) 663. I would like to thank Senator Jacque for working with me on this important legislation.

This legislation helps reduce the burden of applying to college for our veterans and members of the armed forces by waving the application fee charged when applying to Wisconsin's public technical colleges and universities. 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.

For example, if a veteran wishes to apply at five of our state's four-year campuses, most of which charge a \$50 application fee, this would cost them \$250 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 663 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.

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