



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7863
VIA EMAIL – eversinfo@wisconsin.gov

Dear Governor Evers,

Yesterday, your order ending the Wisconsin National Guard (WNG) mission at the Veterans Home at Union Grove (Union Grove) took effect. Under the federal authorization for the mission, you could have allowed the WNG members to remain at Union Grove for another 6 weeks. You chose to end the mission early.

We are following up on our letter of last Tuesday, seeking your plan to fulfill the vital services that the Wisconsin National Guard was providing at the Veterans Home at Union Grove (Union Grove).

Staffing problems at Union Grove have persisted throughout your governorship. The Republican legislature has approved your budget requests related to staffing our Veterans Homes, including at Union Grove. In fact, we even broadened your authority to spend an additional \$10 million to for emergency operations and staffing at the homes. We also passed a bill, which you signed, allowing military-trained medical personnel to more quickly fulfill duties at health facilities like the Veterans Homes.

We have given you tools to address staffing at Union Grove. You have billions of federal dollars at your sole disposal to help alleviate problems at Union Grove. Yet to date, neither we, nor our veterans at Union Grove, our volunteers at Union Grove, or our hard-working staff at Union Grove have seen a plan to increase staffing. Rather, they have seen you withdraw the WNG lifeline while it was needed and before the withdrawal was required.

You ended the WNG mission early. We have given you what you asked for, and in some ways more than you asked for. You have billions of federal dollars at your disposal. We ask you again: What is your plan to address the staffing crisis at the Veterans Home at Union Grove?

We hope you did not abandon our veterans and families at Union Grove without a plan, but time has run out without answers. Our veterans have heard nothing from you. Staff, families, and volunteers at Union Grove have heard nothing from you.

They expect better. They deserve better. They have earned better.

Sincerely,

Van Wanggaard
State Senator
21st District

Robin Vos
State Representative
63rd District