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CONTACT: Rep. Dianne Hesselbein, 608-266-5340

**BOTH STATE POLITICAL PARTIES PASS RESOLUTIONS BACKING COUNTY VETERANS OFFICERS,  
OPPOSING CHANGES BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Both the Republican Party of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Democratic Party passed resolutions at recent state conventions supporting the County Veterans Service Officers in 72 counties.

The Republican resolution, passed May 15 in Green Bay, says the party “vigorously opposes any efforts to make CVSO’s optional, to consolidate or regionalize these positions, to integrate them within other county departments, and to remove the requirement that they be filled by veterans.”

The Democratic resolution, passed June 5, also in Green Bay, echoes that language and also calls for the repeal of rules passed that put financing of the offices on a reimbursement basis. Both resolutions say the shift from direct grants, which had sustained the centers since 1973, has had “a negative impact of rural counties to support their veteran populations.”

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton), the ranking member of the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, said the Governor and his DVA secretary, John Scocos “need to know that this is something that both Republicans and Democrats agree on: Leave the CVSO’s alone and it works for veterans. The two parties have different platforms, but this is one area of common ground.”

County Veteran Service Offices are the front-line local points of contact for veterans seeking information and help to receive their service benefits. Nearly all claims by veterans in Wisconsin originate with a personal contact with a CVSO.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been looking to downsize the CVSO operation, saying that a few regional centers could serve a smaller population of veterans just as well as an all-county approach. Last year a bill, AB821, that would have made the CVSOs optional for counties, was stopped after veterans jammed a hearing room in protest.

But Secretary Scocos recently told the state Board of Veterans Affairs that he has not given up on his review of the CVSO system. He told a news reporter he expects it to be “tweaked.”