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REPUBLICANS SHUN ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA
RESEARCH, LET DOWN VETERANS

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) is disappointed that Senate Republicans have killed three bills that offered hope to Alzheimer's families and help to disabled veterans.

The bills, authored by Hesselbein, joined by bipartisan sponsors and passed by the Assembly, were allowed to expire in Senate committees today, the final day of Senate voting. "I am greatly disappointed that the Senate Republicans would not advance these bipartisan bills to aid our residents," she said.

· AB784 would have provided \$50,000 to the University of Wisconsin Alzheimer's Research center for blood studies of adult children of Alzheimer's patients.

"This bill, more than any other Alzheimer's bill, spelled hope to the families," Hesselbein said. "More than anything else, they want a cure for what is now an incurable disease. These grants would have provided a new approach."

· AB187 would have allowed disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients to hunt wild turkeys together in groups, exempting them from lotteries. Hesselbein said, "Being able to hunt together is a part of recovery and the experience of normal life for these wounded Wisconsin warriors. Why would the Senate not take this simple, friendly step?"

· AB180 would have encouraged judges to consider a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Distress Syndrome as a possible mitigating factor in the criminal sentencing of veterans who have returned from war. Hesselbein said, "There is a long list of aggravating factors for judges to consider. This would have added one mitigating factor. The bill did not require a judge to use it, but allowed the option. It is a shame Wisconsin could not be part of this progress."

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