



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Dianne Hesselbein**

79TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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FOR RELEASE: August 29, 2016

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#### HELSELBEIN RIPS NEGLECT AT KING VETS HOME, URGES FEDERAL PROBE

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton), ranking member of the Assembly Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, today condemned the neglect of residents and mismanagement of facilities and funds at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, as reported by the Madison Capital Times.

Hesselbein joined Assembly and Senate Democratic leaders in calling for an independent federal investigation of the situation at King.

In today's report, Katelyn Ferral of the Cap Times portrays King as a historically respected veterans' retirement home that has been stripped of its amenities and now struggles as a severely understaffed, poorly-maintained nursing home.

"I am dismayed and outraged that our elderly veterans aren't receiving the treatment they deserve," Hesselbein said. "I am struck that so many veterans, including former Milwaukee judge and veteran, Frank Crivello, cannot escape neglect and degrading treatment." The Cap Times quotes Crivello as saying he cannot obtain a proper wheelchair or get timely help when he soils himself.

Hesselbein, the wife of a veteran and active in the VFW Auxiliary, said she also is upset to read that millions in federal funds are being shifted to other state facilities and programs, while the state Department of Veterans Affairs appeals for charitable gifts.

"I find it shocking that my Auxiliary collects money and items for the King Veterans Home, including personal items for the residents, when King has plenty of funds to supply those items. Does the public really have to supply underwear and shoes for the residents when King has the funds for that? The whole situation is disgraceful."

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