

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ANDY JORGENSEN**

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

\*HAND-DELIVERED\*

June 18, 2014

Governor Scott Walker  
115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

Thank you for your letter dated May 21<sup>st</sup> responding to the letter that 33 of my colleagues and I sent you on April 1<sup>st</sup> regarding your decision to sign Assembly Bill 19 (Act 154) and Senate Bill 324 (Act 146) in secret.

Your letter neglects to explain why you chose to sign these bills in secret. I am left to infer that you were uncomfortable with the controversial nature of these bill signings.

Your letter states that Act 154 is about transparency and that it will “prevent trial lawyers from double dipping.” As you may or may not be aware, Wisconsin discovery law already required full disclosure for all claims and documents that victims have filed with any bankruptcy trusts. Furthermore, the law also held each responsible party liable only for its portion of the damages. Your apparent dislike of lawyers seems misplaced as Act 154 makes it harder for victims to receive compensation for their injuries.

You artfully attempted to sidestep the impact of Act 154 on veterans by pointing out that veterans who are plaintiffs are treated the same under the act as every other plaintiff. Your statement ignores the fact that while veterans account for about 8% of the United States population, they account for around 30% of all mesothelioma cases as well as 62% of all asbestos related cases in Wisconsin. It is this disproportionate impact on veterans that makes Act 154 an anti-veteran law.

You are correct in saying that the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs did not take a position on AB 19. However, your statement omits two important facts that appear to be related to the department’s position. First, you eliminated the independence of the Department of Veterans Affairs when you signed 2011 Act 36. Second, you appointed the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as well as every member of the Board of Veterans Affairs. So, the fact that your appointees at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs did not oppose a bill that you supported is meaningless.



You are again correct in saying that AMVETS Department of Wisconsin did support AB 19, but in pointing to one veterans group while completely ignoring the others who were very vocal in their opposition, your letter borders upon intellectual dishonesty. Your claim that you would not have signed Act 154 if you thought that it would adversely impact veterans or their families indicates that you did not take the time to listen.

Again, I would like to know why you chose to sign these bills in secret. I would also like to know who was in attendance at the signing of AB 19 and who received that pens with which you signed that bill. I look forward to your answers.

Thank you again for your response. I will be sure to share it with my 33 colleagues to whom you declined to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Jorgensen", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ANDY JORGENSEN  
Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair  
State Representative  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District