

Good afternoon (morning) Co-Chair Darling, Co-Chair Nygren and other distinguished members of the Committee.

On behalf of DAV Wisconsin, I am honored to present testimony to the Committee on the DAV Transportation Grant.

DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Our emphasis is always on Service.

One of our prominent Service Programs is the DAV Transportation Network. We offer free transportation to all veterans who need help getting to and from VA medical appointments.

In 2016, the DAV Transportation Network in Wisconsin drove 961,830 miles and transported 42,337 veterans. Our volunteer drivers donated 83,756 hours of their time to help our nation veterans.

We have 51 vans which serve 53 counties in Wisconsin and 5 counties in Minnesota.

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 45.41, DAV Wisconsin annually receives a \$120,000 Grant from the State of Wisconsin to help defray expenses with our DAV Transportation Program.

Due to increasing usage and expenses, Governor Walker in his Budget Brief recommends an \$80,000 increase for the Transportation Grant in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Because of an oversight, an insertion will be needed in the Governor's 2017-19 Biennial' Budget (Assembly Bill 64/Senate Bill 30) to reflect Governor Walker's Budget Brief recommendation.

It is our hope that the Joint Committee on Finance will support Governor Walker's DAV Transportation Grant increase and also insert the proper language in AB64/SB30 so that the service rendered by the men and women who served will be properly honored.

Co-chair Darling and Co-chair Nygren that concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other Committee members may have.

Enclosures: State of Wisconsin, Budget in Brief, page 77 - (#1)
Statute 45.41 (4) (a) – (#2)
2017 Assembly Bill, page 417 – (#3)