

2 **RESOLUTION: Support the Commitment to Veteran’s Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act**

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TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

6 **WHEREAS**, the number of veteran suicides has continued to rise nationwide. Approximately 14 out of 20
7 veterans who die by suicide are not under Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care. This is a public health crisis
8 that requires a national approach where the veterans are located; and

9 **WHEREAS**, County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) are often the first point of contact in the community
10 for veterans’ services, and they provide assistance on a wide range of benefits including service-connected benefits,
11 enrollment in VA health care, VA home loans, education benefits, and available job placement assistance; and

12 **WHEREAS**, veterans are not always aware of available benefits, and CVSOs are often the first to inform
13 veterans of their eligibility. CVSOs are county employees who are nationally accredited by the VA to prepare,
14 present and prosecute VA claims. Currently, there is no federal funding available for CVSOs; and

15 **WHEREAS**, there is currently pending in Congress legislation known as the “Commitment to Veteran
16 Support and Outreach Act (CVSO Act)” that authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with
17 states or to award grants to states to promote health and wellness, prevent suicide, and improve outreach to
18 veterans. The CVSO Act will authorize \$50 million annually for five (5) years to expand and support CVSOs or
19 similar entities who currently assist veterans in obtaining over \$50 billion in benefits annually.

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21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
22 support pending legislation in the United State Congress known as the “Commitment to Veteran Support and
23 Outreach Act (CVSO Act) that authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with states or to
24 award grants to states to promote health and wellness, prevent suicide, and improve outreach to veterans.

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26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
27 Winnebago County Clerk to forward copies of this Resolution to all Wisconsin counties, the Winnebago County
28 Veterans Services Officer, the State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the National Association of
29 Counties (NaCo), and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO).

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Respectfully submitted by:

32 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

33 Committee Vote: **12-0**

34 Vote Required for Passage: **Three-Quarters of Those Members Present**

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36 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2020.

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Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive