

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

John Solis
INITIATED BY



John Solis
DRAFTED BY

Education, Veterans & Aging
SUBMITTED BY

March 15, 2011
DATE DRAFTED

Wisconsin Veterans Benefits Funding

1 **WHEREAS**, Rock County veterans receive the majority of their state veteran benefits through the
2 Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA); and,

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) is WDVA's primary means of financing the multitude of
5 benefits provided to the veterans of Rock County; and,

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the VTF, started in 1947 with proceeds from a statewide liquor tax, and later funded by
8 periodic infusions of general purpose revenue and proceeds from WDVA loan programs, has steadily
9 decreased in size due to declining interest rates and investment earnings, along with increased demand for
10 programs/services; and,

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the cost to provide and administer benefits provided through the VTF is almost entirely
13 funded by proceeds from WDVA loan programs, resulting in a situation whereby the veterans of our state
14 are essentially funding their own benefits and services; and,

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the VTF is forecasted to be into negative cash flow and completely insolvent as early as late
17 FY-2012/early FY-2013; and,

18
19 **WHEREAS**, this will result in cessation of vital and in many cases mandated services to our veterans
20 during and unprecedented time of financial need, to include Aid to Needy Veterans Grants, Veteran
21 Retraining Grants, Military Funeral Honors Program, County Veterans Service Officer Grant Program,
22 Personal Loan Program, Federal Claims Assistance, VetEd Reimbursement Grants, Aid to Indigent
23 Veterans, Disabled American Veterans Transportation Grant, County Transportation Grant, Veterans
24 Assistance Program, Outreach Programs, State Veterans Cemeteries, and Veteran's Museums; and,

25
26 **WHEREAS**, it is only right that our veterans should continue to have the services they have earned and
27 the support they need, particularly in this time of war and economic crisis, to enable them to contribute to
28 Rock County's economy as productive, independent citizens.

29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
31 this 24th day of March, 2011, fully supports any and all efforts (except for deficit
32 spending) to provide additional state funding to forestall any VTF insolvency within the next biennium,
33 including, but not limited to, the exploration of permanent state funding for WDVA and the veterans
34 programs and benefits that WDVA oversees.

35
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to
37 forward a copy of this resolution to the Office of Governor Scott Walker, respective State of Wisconsin
38 legislative representatives of Rock County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin
39 Department of Veterans Affairs.

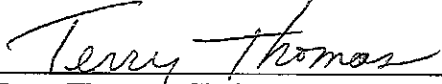
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Wisconsin Veterans Benefits Funding

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Respectfully submitted,

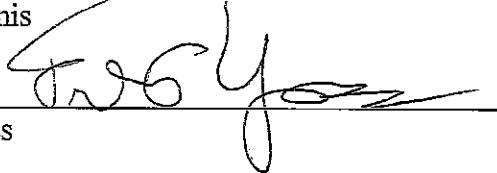
EDUCATION, VETERANS, AGING COMMITTEE


Terry Thomas, Chair

Absent
Marvin Wopat, Vice Chair



Wayne Gustina


David Innis


Fred Yoss

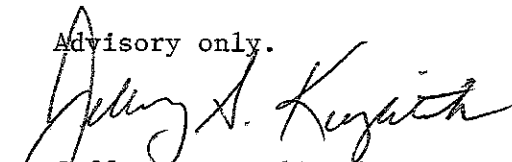
FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution addresses a legislative policy issue and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.


Jeffrey A. Smith
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.


Craig Knutson
County Administrator