

Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

September 1st, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald, Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

We write to you to urge that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conduct a thorough, independent investigation of the Wisconsin State Veterans Home at King, as administered by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). As you may know, a recent article from The Capital Times of Madison (attached) highlighted a series of shocking allegations from veterans, family members, and staff ranging from events that jeopardize the health and safety of residents of King to resource and staffing shortages which contribute to poor patient care. Family members of some veterans at King are quoted as saying they believe that these conditions contributed to their veterans' illness and deaths.

Given all of the serious issues that have been alleged, any efforts by WDVA to reroute revenue from veterans' homes like King as has been discussed would constitute systemic mismanagement. Our veterans deserve the highest quality of care; therefore, we urge the VA to take steps to conduct an independent investigation of King in order to examine the causes of these reported issues and their pervasiveness.

Wisconsin has a proud tradition of honoring our military veterans who have put their lives on the line for our country, and providing quality care is our duty in upholding this proud tradition. Unfortunately, the allegations made against WDVA and the deficiencies documented in the Capital Times investigative report may indicate that our veterans are not receiving quality care. We hope that you will implement our request that the VA investigate conditions at King so veterans in Wisconsin and their families receive the care they deserve.

Sincerely,

PETER W. BARCA
Assembly Minority Leader
64th Assembly District

KATRINA SHANKLAND
Assistant Minority Leader
71st Assembly District

JOCASTA ZAMARRIPA
Minority Caucus Chair
8th Assembly District

DIANNE HESSELBEIN
State Representative
79th Assembly District

MELISSA SARGENT
State Representative
48th Assembly District

ERIC GENRICH
State Representative
90th Assembly District

Dave Considine

DAVE CONSIDINE
State Representative
81st Assembly District

Latonya Johnson

LATONYA JOHNSON
State Representative
17th Assembly District

Beth Meyers

BETH MEYERS
State Representative
74th Assembly District

Terese Berceau

TERESE BERCEAU
State Representative
77th Assembly District

Nick Milroy

NICK MILROY
State Representative
73rd Assembly District

Debra Kolste

DEBRA KOLSTE
State Representative
44th Assembly District

Josh Zepnick

JOSH ZEPNICK
State Representative
9th Assembly District

David Bowen

DAVID BOWEN
State Representative
10th Assembly District

Robb Kahl

ROBB KAHL
State Representative
47th Assembly District

Lisa Subeck

LISA SUBECK
State Representative
78th Assembly District

Sondy Pope

SONDY POPE
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Jonathan Brostoff

JONATHAN BROSTOFF
State Representative
19th Assembly District

Tod Ohnstad

TOD OHNSTAD
State Representative
65th Assembly District

Gordon Hintz

GORDON HINTZ
State Representative
54th Assembly District

Frederick P. Kessler

FREDERICK KESSLER
State Representative
12th Assembly District

Gary Hebl

GARY HEBL
State Representative
46th Assembly District

Evan Goyke

EVAN GOYKE
State Representative
18th Assembly District

Daniel Riemer

DANIEL RIEMER
State Representative
7th Assembly District

Dana Wachs

DANA WACHS
State Representative
91st Assembly District

Christine Sinicki

CHRISTINE SINICKI
State Representative
20th Assembly District

Mandela Barnes

MANDELA BARNES
State Representative
11th Assembly District

Cory Mason

CORY MASON
State Representative
66th Assembly District

Andy Jorgensen

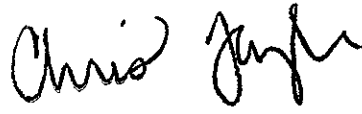
ANDY JORGENSEN
State Representative
43rd Assembly District

Chris Danou

CHRIS DANOU
State Representative
92nd Assembly District



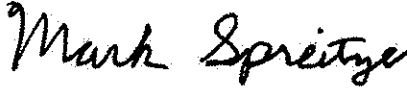
STEVE DOYLE
State Representative
94th Assembly District



CHRIS TAYLOR
State Representative
76th Assembly District



JILL BILLINGS
State Representative
95th Assembly District



MARK SPREITZER
State Representative
45th Assembly District



AMANDA STUCK
State Representative
57th Assembly District