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Now is the Time to Lower the Property Tax Burden on Wisconsin's Severely Disabled Veterans

Madison, WI- Today at the State Capitol, the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on Assembly Bill (AB) 245. This nonpartisan legislation, if enacted into law, will benefit Wisconsin's most severely disabled Veteran homeowners by reducing their property tax burden commensurate with their service-connected disabilities. Veterans and leaders from the Wisconsin departments of The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) were present to express their unified support of this legislation.

Property tax relief is the #1 legislative priority of the American Legion, DAV, and VFW. Cory Geisler, VFW State Commander stated, "This is the second year in a row that our three organizations have banded together to show our strength and collective support of this particular bill. This is a big opportunity for our legislators to take a stand for those that have served and sacrificed and asked for little in return." The bipartisan bill would expand eligibility from the current 100% rating to 70% to claim the credit. It would be assessed on a pro-ration basis reflecting the veteran's disability rating as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"DAV wishes to thank the Ways and Means Committee for holding a public hearing on AB 245 today. We look forward to working with Chairman John Macco to see the bill moves out of Committee as the first step in its final passage," says Matt Kampainen, DAV State Commander. "We can think of no better way to help the state's wartime severely disabled veterans than by providing much needed property tax relief. Many are elderly living on limited income. Lowering the eligibility for the property tax credit down to a 70% service-connected disability rating will show veterans that the state truly does appreciate their sacrifice," he further adds.

"With the ever-increasing property tax burden faced by homeowners in Wisconsin, many of our state's severely injured veterans are unable to afford home ownership, or worse, face losing the one they have" says Greg Eirich, Commander for the Department of Wisconsin American Legion. "Our state legislators have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of these Veterans and their families and we are hopeful they will do so."