

# Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 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,

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Assembly Minority Leader  
64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

KATRINA SHANKLAND  
Assistant Minority Leader  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

JOCASTA ZAMARRIPA  
Minority Caucus Chair  
8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

DIANNE HESSELBEIN  
State Representative  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

MELISSA SARGENT  
State Representative  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

ERIC GENRICH  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Dave Considine*

DAVE CONSIDINE  
State Representative  
81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

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LATONYA JOHNSON  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Beth Meyers*

BETH MEYERS  
State Representative  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Terese Berceau*

TERESE BERCEAU  
State Representative  
77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Nick Milroy*

NICK MILROY  
State Representative  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

*Deb*

DEBRA KOLSTE  
State Representative  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Josh Zepnick*

JOSH ZEPNICK  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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DAVID BOWEN  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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ROBB KAHL  
State Representative  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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LISA SUBECK  
State Representative  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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SONDY POPE  
State Representative  
80<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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JONATHAN BROSTOFF  
State Representative  
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TOD OHNSTAD  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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GORDON HINTZ  
State Representative  
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FREDERICK KESSLER  
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GARY HEBL  
State Representative  
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DANA WACHS  
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*Christine Sinicki*

CHRISTINE SINICKI  
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11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Cory Mason*

CORY MASON  
State Representative  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Andy Jorgensen*

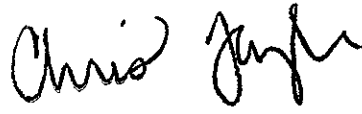
ANDY JORGENSEN  
State Representative  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

*Chris Danou*

CHRIS DANOU  
State Representative  
92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



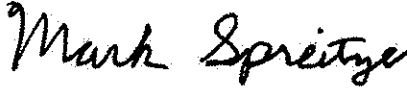
STEVE DOYLE  
State Representative  
94<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



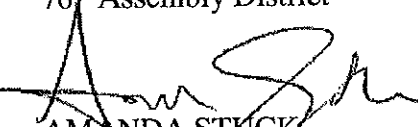
CHRIS TAYLOR  
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95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



MARK SPREITZER  
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