

2 IN SUPPORT OF THE WILLIAM S. MIDDLETON MEMORIAL VETERANS
3 ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL AND IN OPPOSITION OF PRIVATIZATION OF SERVICES

4 Dane County area Veterans Administration clinics and hospitals currently see
5 approximately 1349 patients daily. Of those, the William Middleton Memorial Veterans
6 Administration Hospital in Madison currently sees about 951 outpatients daily. Services
7 provided include medical, surgical, neurological, psychiatric, and a range of outpatient
8 services as well as research programs in clinical, basic, laboratory, rehabilitation, and
9 health services research.

10 Affiliated with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and
11 physically connected to the University of Wisconsin Clinical Science Center, the hospital
12 and its affiliated clinics provide world-renown care and research to the thousands of
13 veterans that utilize its services supported by a \$385.6 million budget.

14 This critical area hospital and clinics employ approximately 2,200 employees making it an
15 integral part of the Dane County economy and community. The services provided to
16 veterans and the jobs created are unmatched and should not be compromised by a
17 potential transition to private care providers.

18 The federal government needs to support policies and provide resources that do not
19 jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources to the private sector. The
20 diverse group of veterans that utilize the services of the VA include older residents with
21 diseases associated with aging and disabilities associated with past wars, and younger
22 veterans with complex conditions related to their military service.

23 ~~Discussions of privatizing the Veterans Administration federally have been underway for~~
24 ~~many months by the current federal administration. Advocates for privatizing believe that~~
25 ~~services should be pushed to the private sector rather than reinvesting in the department.~~

26 Privatization for very rural areas without reasonable access to Veterans Hospitals and
27 services has been advocated for by Veterans and their organizations for several
28 years. The current federal administration has moved from providing private services in
29 very rural areas toward complete privatization rather than reinvesting in the department
30 which lowers the quality of care for the majority of Veterans.

31 Veterans care should not be seen as a political pawn, rather a requirement and duty to take
32 care of the men and women that served this country. Dismantling a system that is
33 supported and preferred by 80% of veterans so that a small group of people can profit is
34 irresponsible and negligent.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors
36 supports and recognizes the significance of the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans
37 Administration Hospital and area clinics in the lives of veterans and in the Dane County
38 community; and

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors opposes the
40 privatization of services that the Veterans Administration provides to millions of veterans
41 nationally and thousands of Dane County residents jeopardizing their care; and

42 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Dane County
43 legislative delegation, Governor Scott Walker, Representative Mark Pocan, Representative
44 Paul Ryan, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, and President Donald Trump.