

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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