

The American Legion,
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Founded on four pillars:
• Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation
• National Security
• Americanism
• Children & Youth

The mission of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin is to provide service to veterans, their families and their communities.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Testimony on SB 43 The Active Duty Fairness Act

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing on SB 43 The Active Duty Fairness Act. I also want to thank the authors and their staffs for the work they have put into this important proposal.

The American Legion is the largest Veterans Service Organization in the Nation. In Wisconsin, we have over 50,000 members. We have just over a century of advocating for veterans and service members.

This bill will be a benefit to the service members who have listed Wisconsin as their home of record at the time they joined the service.

Over five decades ago I changed my home of record to California and my brother changed his to South Dakota because of Wisconsin tax policy with regard to active duty military members. This only makes sense to the many career military members from Wisconsin. The only tie we had to Wisconsin was a tax bill.

Under current law, if you have changed your home of record and eventually return to Wisconsin you may have a long wait or not be eligible for some state veteran benefits. This is a disincentive for some wanting to return to Wisconsin. Currently Wisconsin business is having difficulty finding labor. We need the service members to return.

With respect to the activated members of the guard and reserve, these citizen soldiers and sailors at times see a decrease in income when activated. This bill will provide those families with a small amount of increased cash when it is needed most.

We thank you for your consideration of this issue and urge you to recommend to the Senate adoption.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Fisk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "F".

Paul Fisk
Legislative Chair
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin