



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Legislative Bulletin – August 2021
www.wivfwaux.org



Our legislative focus this year, in addition to the usual Priority Goals as published by the VFW, will be engagement on the state level. While involvement on the National level is of utmost importance, as such legislation affects all Veterans, there is often legislation at the state level that is overlooked. In this post-COVID period, it is time to get back in the trenches and send our membership out to interact with their elected officials again! We will continue to strive to promote the VFW's Priority Goals and ensure that the leadership of our great country hears our voice and implements policies with the best interests of our Veterans in mind. Make sure that anyone who is a Veteran advocate signs up for the VFW Action Corps Newsletter – this includes your membership, your neighbors and your friends. Once you are signed up, take the time to open and read it.

Speaking of engagement on the state level, State Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) of the 24th Senate District introduced the Star Spangled Banner Act in February 2021. This bill (SB 244) would require the playing of the National Anthem prior to sporting events held in Wisconsin venues that have received taxpayer funding. Places like Lambeau Field, Camp Randall Stadium or Fiserv Forum would all be subject to this rule. So would high school sporting events or sporting events happening in a high school or state college venue.

“Hearing the Star Spangled Banner at a sporting event reminds us that despite our differences, we have something in common – we are Americans,” noted Sen. Testin. “This tradition traces its roots back more than a century – even pre-dating the song's adoption as the national anthem. It's a practice that unites us, and I believe it's worth preserving.”

“Some people are saying this is forced patriotism,” Testin added. “But this bill does not force anyone to participate or for all athletes to be present for the anthem. It is simply giving people the opportunity to support the country through the playing of the National Anthem, just like people have the chance to protest during the anthem.

The bill passed through the State Assembly in May with bi-partisan support and a hearing is scheduled for the Senate Committee.

Veteran groups in Wisconsin, including the Wisconsin American Legion and VFW Department of Wisconsin have expressed support for the bill, which is co-authored by Representatives Tony Kurtz (Wonewoc) and Scott Krug (Town of Rome).

To voice your support for the bill, go to the following website, enter your information and submit.

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/24/testin/star-spangled-banner-act/>

Senator Testin can also be contacted by email: Sen.Testin@legis.wi.gov

Or by phone at: (608) 266-3123

“Don't FUDGE on Care for Veterans” as we're “Soaring Above & Beyond”

Debbie Manthey, Legislative Chairman – VFWA Dept. of WI
1301 6th Avenue - #7
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 341-6897 Email: bmfantasy@hotmail.com