



**Assembly Committee on Local Government**

**Public Hearing, January 12, 2022**

**Assembly Bill 742**

**Testimony of State Representative Dave Murphy**

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, thank you for hearing Assembly Bill 742 today.

Utilizing federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds, our bill provides a one-time investment of \$1.5 million in veteran housing that will serve several counties and veteran needs including basic housing, senior independent living, and end of life hospice.

Veterans have been one of the hardest hit communities throughout the pandemic and the ensuing economic turmoil. Housing stability and centralized support services ensure our veterans are empowered to lead dignified and prosperous lives after serving their country.

Wisconsin Veterans Village Association, Inc. and the Outagamie County Housing Authority are working to develop the Glenpark Apartments site in Grand Chute for use as a local Veterans Village. \$4 million has already been raised and 39 of the existing 48 apartments on site have already been renovated as part of phase 1. Planning for phase II construction is already underway. The completion of this project would provide veterans and their families with the resources they deserve, with housing and community resources concentrated in one convenient location.

The growing Veterans Village in Grand Chute is already a recognized national model of government and private partnership providing the specialized resources that veterans require.

Located at the Outagamie County Housing Authority Glenpark Campus in Appleton, veterans will have easy access to the John H. Bradley Veterans Clinic, Fox Valley Technical College, Fox Valley Veterans Council, and Tri-County Dental—all within

walking distance. This area serves nearly 14,000 veterans in Outagamie County and more than 50,000 veterans living in surrounding counties.

With this investment, the Veterans Village of Wisconsin, Inc. will be able to:

- Renovate existing apartments for single veterans and veteran families
- Construct new, fully accessible senior living apartments for aging veterans
- Provide end-of-life care at their 10-bed Honor Home
- Coordinate career and program services at their community center
- Provide access to a full-time Navigator who will help connect veterans and their families to existing veteran and community services
- Create a meaningful, sustainable, and multi-generational return on investment