



November 13, 2017

Dear Rick Badger and AFSCME Council 32,

On October 29, AFT-Wisconsin Convention delegates passed a resolution condemning the Walker administration's disregard for the veterans at King Home. We proudly stand in support of our union brothers and sisters in their efforts to improve the living conditions for the residents at Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. On the floor of our convention, several members spoke of their personal experiences with family members living at the King Home and expressed concerns over limited resources and irresponsible neglect by the state legislation.

Please let us know what we can do to support your efforts and to hold the Walker administration accountable.

In Solidarity,

Kim Kohlhaas
President, AFT-Wisconsin

Special Order Of Business

King State Veteran Home

- Whereas, The four facilities that make up the King State Veteran Home serve several hundred residents, and
- Whereas, These residents are military veterans who have answered their country's call in wartime and are now receiving medical care for injuries and illnesses incurred while on national service, and
- Whereas, Because of inadequate funding and staffing, these residents too often receive substandard care, which has too often put their health and lives in jeopardy, and
- Whereas, These deficiencies have gotten worse since the Walker Administration began in 2011, and
- Whereas, The healthcare workers who serve these veterans, state employees and members of a union affiliated with AFSCME council 32, have conscientiously sought to bring the inadequate staffing and funding to the attention of the Walker Administration, which repeatedly rebuffed these complaints with claims that the King home was a "5 Star Facility", and
- Whereas, That, as a direct result of pressure from the King home facility workers, the veterans and their families, the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs finally inspected the King home in September of 2016 and found that crowding and understaffing resulted in substandard quality of care, and
- Whereas, That, as a result, care at the King home became the subject of oversight by the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, resulting in legislation creating permanent legislative monitoring of the home, and
- Whereas, That the Walker Administration vetoed these legislative acts, causing protests on both sides of the legislative aisles, and
- Whereas, That the Wisconsin Department of Veterans affairs currently proposes to solve overcrowding by reducing beds at the King home, thereby providing fewer services for Wisconsin veterans. Therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that we commend the King home workers for their courage, professionalism and devotion to duty, and, be it further
- RESOLVED, that we commend the bipartisan effort that resulted in the act creating legislative oversight of the King home, and, be it further
- RESOLVED, that we condemn the Walker administration for exacerbating the crisis in veteran care at the King home by reducing services to veterans, and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that we condemn the Walker administration for using the veto power to thwart legislative oversight of the King home.