



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation

Subject: Federal Action Needed to Unlock Veterans' Benefits and Save State Medicaid Resources through the PARIS Veterans Match

Dear President Trump,

We write to you today as members of the Wisconsin Legislature to respectfully request federal policy adjustments necessary to facilitate state participation in the Veterans Match component of the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). As you know, this federal-state data-sharing tool, designed to prevent duplication of public assistance benefits and connect veterans with the benefits they have earned, remains underutilized due to a federal inter-agency data use dispute.

There is significant interest in Wisconsin more effectively identifying veterans, their dependents, and survivors enrolled in our state's Medicaid program who may be eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and related federal benefits. These include comprehensive and more generous federal supports that reduce reliance on state Medicaid, while improving health outcomes and financial security for veterans.

Despite historically bipartisan interest in advancing this legislatively during our previous legislative session and successful implementation in more than 30 other states, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) has cited a data use disagreement between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a financial disincentive to implementing the PARIS veterans match. This federal dispute limits states' ability to recover Medicaid costs or coordinate care when a veteran is eligible for federal military-related benefits—undermining a tool that has saved states like Washington over \$100 million, and up to \$400 per veteran per month.

We respectfully request your action through executive order or other means to:

1. **Resolve the federal inter-agency data-sharing impasse** that prevents Medicaid programs from fully utilizing PARIS for veterans.

2. **Authorize or encourage CMS to recognize VA coverage as third-party liability** for Medicaid cost-avoidance and recovery purposes.
3. **Consider creating incentives for state participation** in the PARIS Veterans Match, including through enhanced federal funding, technical assistance, or performance-based Medicaid program flexibility.

By restoring and facilitating access to data that ensures federal benefits are prioritized over state-funded assistance, your action would honor the service of our veterans, provide real taxpayer savings, and fulfill this administration's goals of eliminating waste and improving the effectiveness of government programs.

We urge you to prioritize this matter and stand ready to work with you to ensure that every eligible veteran in Wisconsin—and across the nation—receives the care and support they have earned.

Respectfully,



Sen. André Jacques
Chair, Senate Committee on
Natural Resources, Veteran and
Military Affairs



Rep. William Penterman
Chair, Assembly Committee
on Veterans and Military Affairs



Rep. Rob Brooks



Rep. Dave Maxey



Rep. Lindee Brill



Rep. Dave Murphy



Rep. Joy Goeben



Rep. Rob Kreibich



Rep. Jerry O'Connor



Rep. Dan Knodl



Rep. Chuck Wichgers



Rep. Tara Johnson



Rep. Elijah Behnke