



Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Inc.
201 West Washington Avenue, Ste 100
Madison, WI 53703
moryan@charter.net
608-444-3842 v/text

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2nd District, Wisconsin
House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

Please consider this as a letter of support for the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Inc. (WCILC). As the Executive Director of WCILC, I can assure you that WCILC will provide quality services to veterans with disabilities in the state of Wisconsin with the requested earmark funding. WCILC would be honored to assist you with your goals of 1) demonstrating needs of Wisconsin communities and 2) improving health care for Wisconsinites through this Project. The eight Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in Wisconsin have requests from veterans with disabilities that far exceed current staff capacity and we predict this unmet need will only continue to increase as more veterans return to Wisconsin over the next year. The ILCs have veterans with disabilities as staff members who know the information to assist veterans with disabilities attain and maintain independence in their communities. These services will improve the health care of the veterans in numerous ways. Veterans want to be assisted by other veterans and people with disabilities want to be assisted by other people with disabilities. Therefore, Increase Vets' Independence Initiative is a great solution and will provide the effective bridge for veterans with disabilities returning from military life to the civilian community.

Services of this Project will include assessing and addressing the assistive technology and home modification needs that the veterans with disabilities have. This will result in great independence, increased health, and save funding for personal assistance and expense medical facility stays. WCILC applauds your effort at trying to improve and enhance the currently fragmented veterans' service system and we are looking forward to the success of this project.

Sincerely,
Maureen Ryan, Director of Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Centers, Inc.