

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2018

Michael Welch
Office of National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events
Department of Veteran Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., N.W. Suite 912D
Washington, D.C., Wisconsin 20420

Dear Michael:

I am pleased to support BraveHearts' application for Adaptive Sports Program for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces grant funding through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

BraveHearts is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that offers equine activity and therapy to veterans from the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area. Since 2007, BraveHearts has offered veterans free-of-charge equine activities including: therapeutic horseback riding, foundation horsemanship, therapeutic cowboy camp, mounted drill team, retreats, all-veteran horse shows, and trail riding. In 2013, BraveHearts established Operation Mustang, a program that allows veterans the opportunity to train wild mustangs.

In 2017, BraveHearts provided 13,107 sessions to 726 veterans. Approved grant funding will allow BraveHearts to continue to support their veterans program and specifically grow Operation Mustang. Through their provided programs, BraveHearts is committed to assisting veterans build trusting relationships, strengthen self-confidence, and heal.

I strongly support programs that seek to enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our Wisconsin veterans and for this reason I ask that you give full and fair consideration to BraveHearts application. Please keep Jessica Sielaff in my Madison office updated on the progress of this application and contact her should you have further questions or concerns. She may be reached at 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, by phone at 608-264-5338, or by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

TB:sba