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Volunteer Day at the Capitol Advocacy Tips

Outreach: You have 2 Senators and 2 Representatives (home and work).

Reach out prior to the Day at the Capitol. Call and email prior To the Day at the Capitol and ask for an appointment on February 25th at 10:30am or at any other time that works.

Click here to find your 4 elected officials:

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Wear Purple: We are distinguishing ourselves by wearing the MAVA color!

Name Tag: Have a name tag that includes your name, organization and home and work address.

Legislative Staff: The legislative assistants (L.As) can convey your messages and give materials to your elected officials. If you cannot meet directly with the representative/senator; meet with the legislative assistant. Politely ask them for help!

Protocol: Your meeting may take place in a hall or as you walk the legislator to their next event. You may be able to call him/her out of a meeting/hearing so you can chat. Ask the L.A for help. Don't be surprised if your meeting is cancelled or rescheduled without notice.

Introduction: Introduce yourself and tell your Rep/Senator where you live and Work. They want to visualize where this is in their District. Tell them the Bill number (HF 263) and hand them the Bill and fact sheet. Follow up later in the day by email and send them the Bill and Fact sheet.

The Ask: Tell them the Bill will bring funds so that we can address unmet needs through innovation grants from MAVA. Tell them a personal story about how you have seen volunteerism change lives. Tell them how this Bill will impact you and your District. Invite them to come see volunteerism in action at your workplace.

Closing: Thank the legislator. Give them MAVA's information. Ask them If you can count on their support. Tell MAVA what happened!



What You Need to Know about the Volunteerism Bill

- ✓ The House File is HF 263 and is authored by Rep. Erin Koegel (Anoka/Blaine Region)
- ✓ The Senate File is SF 606 and is authored by Senator Paul Utke (Detroit Lakes Region)
- ✓ There has been no Minnesota State funding for Volunteerism for over 20 years.
- ✓ The Bill will provide \$500,000 for each of the next two years so that MAVA can provide grants across the State for innovative use of volunteers to address unmet community needs. A percentage of the funds will go to MAVA for administration of the grant program.
- ✓ A grants committee will be formed to set guidelines, review and distribute grants.
- ✓ The exact wording of the Bill as amended on February 4th is:

A bill for an act relating to economic development; appropriating money for a grant to the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration; requiring reports. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION; APPROPRIATION.

\$500,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2021 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for a grant to the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration to administer evidence-based volunteerism innovation grants. Volunteerism innovation sub grants shall require a 100 percent non-state match by the sub grantees. The commissioner shall report data on outcomes and statewide potential capacity of volunteers to the legislature by December 15, 2021. This is a onetime appropriation and funds are available until June 30, 2021.

- ✓ MAVA members will be given priority in grant allocation. Grants will range in size from \$15,000-\$50,000.