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## Members and associates,

An interesting week for the Community Vitality Investment Act (HF226/SF1069/SF419).

Our hearing in Senate taxes was postponed. No issues that we are aware of, just a delay of a week or so. We expect to be back on the Senate committee schedule soon.

I have never said that this would be easy. A reality is that once government gets your money it is hard to get back. They think of it as their money not ours.

The Allied Charities board recognized the difficulty of achieving what we are working towards and authorized spending up to one half of our available reserves (\$100,000). American Games, Arrow International, International Gamco and Triple Crown have all contributed money to the effort.

There is a lot of interest around the state and articles have been in newspapers from Duluth to Mankato, Rochester to Minneapolis ([here's the recent StarTribune article if you missed it](#)).

But NONE of that matters if YOUR voice isn't heard.

If you think that government knows better than you what the needs are in your

communities **DO NOTHING.**

If you think that government can do what you do better than you do for less than you do it for **DO NOTHING.**

If you think that at the end of the day government should have more of your money than you have for your communities or missions **DO NOTHING.**

If you think that it is right that a fire relief should need to send the state up to \$28,000 to buy a life -saving piece of equipment such as an \$80,000 ambulance **DO NOTHING.**

If you think that is right that the NFL and billionaire team owners have a higher priority with the state than keeping kids out of gangs and feeding the hungry **DO NOTHING.**

If you think that this is somebody else's problem **DO NOTHING.**

You do not have to be a high taxed organization to think that any or all of the above are wrong. While it is true that a few hundred of us pay the highest rate, if those organizations call it quits you could be next in line to pay the high taxes. Ours is an issue of fairness. Our current tax structure is WRONG. Are we ever going to say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH?

Every person in your organization needs to make their voice heard. It is not complicated. You need to be respectful, but direct. You can find more info on the legislation and tips on how to contact your legislator [here](#).

And to make it easier, here's a sample letter/email you can send:

*Representative/Senator, My name is Al Lund. I live at 11 Elm Street in Maple Grove and I belong to the Osseo/Maple Grove American Legion that conducts charitable gaming to serve our community and veterans. After we pay our expenses we send the state 46% of what remains and we are fast approaching the point where we will be sending more to the state than we have for our community and veterans. I did not join the Legion to collect taxes for the state; I joined to help the community and those that put their lives on the line for their country. We need your help to fix this. Please review HF226/SF419/SF1069*

*and support the bill (sign on if a Representative). It would mean a lot to our community and the veterans in your district.*

ACM believes that there is enough money to give us relief and take care of obligations that the state has made for our taxes, but to date the Governor has not offered to sit down and talk to us. The Department of Revenue tells us that there will be no relief for us.

We now have 25 Representatives on HF226. They are Dettmer, Davids, Lucero, Lien, Drazkowski, Knobloch, Marquart, Nash, Kresha, Howe, Daniels, Swedzinski, Lueck, Green, Lillie, Albright, Franson, McDonald, Nornes, Poppe, S. Anderson, Hoppe, Bennett, Baker and Bernardy.

If your Representative is listed, send a note thanking him/her. And if your Representative ISN'T list and you HAVEN'T asked your Representative to get on the bill you need to do that. If your Representative does not want to sign on to the bill ask them why not.

We now have 7 Senators on SF419/SF106. Senators Nelson, Limmer, B. Anderson, Eken, P. Anderson, Pratt and Newton. If you have not asked your Senator to support our bill you need to do that.

Find out who represents you [here](#) and make the call or write the letter TODAY.

Regards,

*Al Lund*

Executive Director

Allied Charities of Minnesota (ACM)

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## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Bipartisan members of both the House and the Senate have voiced support for the Community Vitality Investment Act, but they need to hear from YOU. Here are three ways you can support tax relief for local charities:

1. **CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS** -- Find out who represents you and

how to contact them [here](#). If you're not sure what to say, read some tips on contacting your legislators [here](#).

2. **LINK TO US ON YOUR WEBSITE** -- Ask your web manager to include a link to the Community Vitality Investment Act page on the ACM website. Your members will have easy access to the latest news on the bill. Here's the link: [www.alliedcharitiesmn.org/Community-Vitality-Investment-Act](http://www.alliedcharitiesmn.org/Community-Vitality-Investment-Act)
3. **FOLLOW US!** -- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and make sure to share our posts with your networks! Use #CVIA to make sure we see your posts.

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## SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 20, 2017

ACM will be holding out 2nd legislative reception for all State Representatives and Senators on Monday evening March 20 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The even will be held at the Best Western Plus Capitol Ridge (Formerly the Kelly Inn, within walking distance of the capitol) 161 St. Anthony Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103. Please put this on your calendar. The idea is to share with our elected officials what we do in our communities and how current law hampers our ability to do more. More to come, watch the ACM website [www.alliedcharitiesmn.org](http://www.alliedcharitiesmn.org) for details as they become available.



### CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR!

Your voice matters--find out who represents you [here](#) and ask them to support the Community Vitality Investment Act.

**REMINDER:** Please add [alliedcharitiesmn@gmail.com](mailto:alliedcharitiesmn@gmail.com) to your contact list so we don't get caught in your spam folder!

**Add us to your contact list!**

