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## Members and associates,

As I write this, the 2017 session of the Minnesota Legislature still drags on. Missed deadline after missed deadline is met with grumbling by many legislators shut out of the final deals and disappointment by groups like Allied Charities of Minnesota that never had the support our cause deserves. We aren't defeated, though, unless our members give up. And I know you believe your missions are too important to ever throw in the towel.

The close of the session has put me in a reflective mood. I know that you will find this hard to believe, but when I was a youth (some would say even older) I was a bit of smart a\*\*. When I would come home and tell my Dad that the gym teacher had given me a swat(s) on my derriere with a wooden paddle he would say "what did you do to deserve that?". He never asked me if it was justified, he just assumed that it was. When I was in a room being fed a load of tripe by someone I would turn and ask the group, "You know that the emperor has no clothes on, right?".

My parent's generation and my generation were raised not to question authority, although my folks did that better than me. We were taught that those in charge would never throw you under the bus intentionally and if they did, it had to be for the greater good. We were thrown under the bus in the 2012 stadium legislation and it was not for the greater good. We were the means to an end.

What the stadium legislation did to us was wrong and it needs to be fixed. It

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done to us and not for us. Neither political party nor the Dayton administration wants to address our issue. We need them to understand that we are not going to go away anytime soon and certainly not quietly.

You are not putting your organization's tax exempt status in jeopardy if you explain to your legislators what you are paying to the state after you pay expenses, where you donated the little money that got to the bottom line after taxes and what else you would have been able to do for your community/mission if donations were exempt from state tax.

And you are NOT jeopardizing your relationships with the groups your donations help by letting them know that their grants aren't guaranteed as long as the state demands more in taxes than many charitable gaming organizations are able to contribute to their missions. Those that benefit from your organization's work must also be part of the effort to create fairness in our public policies on charitable gaming.

If your entire organization does not know what we are attempting to accomplish, you need to share that with them. They need to be involved. We need to hold our elected officials accountable. In 2018 we will elect State Representatives and a new Governor. We will need to understand where the candidates stand on our issues and if they will support reform for us.

In late May and June the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is holding their statewide policy tour (May 31 – June 22). The Chamber's focus at these community meetings is how the 2017 legislation affected Minnesota. These sessions also will help set the Chamber's agenda for the 2018 legislative session. Attendance is free and open to anyone. [See the link for a meeting near you](#). This is the perfect opportunity for us to tell the Chamber how our current tax structure is hurting our ability to serve our communities, especially in greater Minnesota. These sessions will be attended by other business people in your community and, often, by local media. This is YOUR chance to tell YOUR story to an audience that needs to hear what we are up against.

Travel safe this Memorial Day weekend. Paulette and I are loading up the trailer and heading to Epworth, Iowa. We are groupies for a cover band made up of friends named Road Kill. They are playing this weekend at the Epworth Fire Hall for an annual firefighter fundraiser. God bless all of you that serve or

prayers.

Regards,

*Al Lund*

Executive Director

Allied Charities of Minnesota (ACM)

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## REMINDER:

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



### CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR!

Your voice matters--find out who  
represents you [here](#) and ask them to  
support charitable gaming.



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