



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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LEGISLATION November/December 2018



As I write this, the November elections are less than a month away. Regardless of the results, we need to proceed working with our legislators to get bills passed which aide Veterans, military and their families. Letters and emails can be effective in influencing legislators' views. Correspondence lets them know you're out there and watching! They also keep Veterans' issues on the front burner.

How do you write an effective letter or email? Here are a few tips:

1. KEEP IT BRIEF

Limit yourself to one page. Discuss only 1 bill or issue in that letter or email.

2. IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS PART OF OUR ORGANIZATION

a good opening would be: "As a regular voter and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I would...

3. DON'T BE "WORDY." GET TO THE POINT.

When possible, list the number of the bill you are supporting or opposing. Give a few concise reasons why you are supporting or opposing a particular bill.

4. GIVE YOUR COMPLETE CONTACT INFORMATION.

The legislator or his aide may contact you for further information or respond to your communication.

ADDRESSING WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

The Honorable (full name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative (last name):

I'm looking forward to hearing about legislative activities in your area involving members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Please jot down a few comments and mail or email them to me by December 1. I'll combine them for Minnesota's required midwinter legislative report sent to our Northwestern Division Legislation Chairman.

Have a great holiday season!

Mary Hendrickson
Department Legislation Chairman/1st Vice President
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