

Legislative Working Groups



Several bipartisan working groups, with members from both the House and Senate, meet periodically to discuss issues of mutual interest.

2020 Conference

In the year 2020, it is projected that more Minnesotans will be of retirement age than school age. This group is studying long-term issues related to demographic changes in Minnesota, including how Minnesota will pay for health care as the older population continues to grow and possible changes in state priorities as the population ages.

Contact: Rep. Joe Atkins – 651-296-4192, rep.joe.atkins@house.mn
Rep. Laura Brod – 651-296-4229, rep.laura.brod@house.mn
Sen. Ann Rest – 651-296-2889, sen.ann.rest@senate.mn
Sen. Geoff Michel – 651-296-6238, sen.geoff.michel@senate.mn
Bob DeBoer, Citizens League – 651-293-0575 ext. 13, bdeboer@citizensleague.net

Civic Life Legislative Working Group

This group's goals are to improve the public work of the Minnesota Legislature by involving legislators with problem solving and citizen engagement strategies. The group discusses issues related to civic engagement for the legislature as a whole and for individual members and their districts; moving from a legislator to a citizen-engaged legislator; problem-solving strategies inside and outside the legislature; and strategies for working on a bipartisan, bicameral basis.

Contact: Rep. Nora Slawik, 651-296-7807, rep.nora.slawik@house.mn
Sen. Dave Senjem, 651-296-3903, sen.dave.senjem@senate.mn

Early Childhood Caucus

The purpose of the caucus is to influence and shape public policies that impact Minnesota's youngest children, their families, and caregivers. The caucus seeks to inform legislators, create dialogue, build consensus, and provide direction for legislative action. Issues discussed include research on brain development in the formative years, and subsequent necessity for good child care/pre-school education for young children; quality care and education programs; access to information for parents; and closing the achievement gap through pre-K programs.

Contact: Rep. Sandra Peterson – 651-296-4176, rep.sandra.peterson@house.mn
Rep. Randy Demmer – 651-296-9236, rep.randy.demmer@house.mn
Sen. Tarryl Clark – 651-296-6455, sen.tarryl.clark@senate.mn
Sen. Claire Robling – 651-296-4123, sen.claire.robbling@senate.mn
Rep. Nora Slawik (Ex-Officio Chair) – 651-296-7807, rep.nora.slawik@house.mn
Lisa Venable (Facilitator and Consultant)

Health Care Hot Topics

This group aims to build competence and confidence in analyzing and addressing health care issues through shared learning. Members develop a common understanding of problems in the current health care system, identify potential solutions, and review health reform bills or proposals. Specific health care system challenges include coverage and access issues; how to promote quality improvements and cost containment; long term care; and health care prevention and promotion.

Contact: Rep. Diane Loeffler – 651-296-4219, rep.diane.loeffler@house.mn
Rep. Jim Abeler – 651-296-1729, rep.jim.abeler@house.mn

I-90 Coalition

The mission of the I-90 Coalition is to enhance the economic growth and vitality of Southern Minnesota. Regional priorities for the 2006 legislative session include bonding money for the existing bioscience corridor development with targeted support for agriculture-related bioscience development, bonding for bridge projects, alternative energy development initiatives, and more.



Contact: Rep. Bob Gunther – 651-296-3240, rep.bob.gunther@house.mn
Rep. Jeanne Poppe – 651-296-4193, rep.Jeanne.poppe@house.mn
Sen. Dave Senjem – 651-296-3903, sen.david.senjem@senate.mn
Sen. Dan Sparks – 651-296-9248, sen.dan.sparks@senate.mn
Dr. Jack Geller, Center for Rural Policy and Development – 507-934-7700, crpd@ruralmn.org

Mental Health Caucus

This group examines issues affecting children and adults with mental illness in Minnesota. The members seek to coordinate and support legislation leading toward an efficient and effective mental health care system within our state.

Contact: Elizabeth Mandelman (Legislative Assistant for Rep. Mindy Greiling) – 651-296-9676, elizabeth.mandelman@house.mn
Rep. Mindy Greiling – 651-296-5387, rep.mindy.greiling@house.mn
Rep. Bruce Anderson – 651-296-5063, rep.bruce.Anderson@house.mn
Sen. Linda Berglin – 651-296-4261, sen.Linda.berglin@senate.mn
Sen. Steve Dille – 651-296- 4131, sen.steve.dille@senate.mn

Minnesota Legislative Sports Caucus

Members of the caucus work to protect and enhance Minnesota's resources for use and enjoyment by future generations, discussing a broad range of issues involving or affecting the outdoor sporting community.

Contact: Sen. Pat Pariseau – 651-296-5252, sen.pat.pariseau@senate.mn
Sen. Tom Saxhaug – 651-296-4136, sen.tom.saxhaug@senate.mn
Rep. Tom Hackbarth – 651-296-2439, rep.tom.hackbarth@house.mn
Rep. David Dill – 651-296-2190, rep.david.dill@house.mn