

NATIONAL COALITION FOR VOLUNTEER PROTECTION

January 21, 1992

"A Coalition of 200 volunteer-dependent organizations, representing tens of millions of volunteers, working to promote consistent and comprehensive volunteer protection laws."

HONORARY CO-CHAIRMEN

U.S. Senator
Dennis DeConcini

U.S. Congressman
John E. Porter

LEADING ORGANIZATIONS

Air Force Association

American Association of
Museums

American Society of
Association Executives

Association of Governing Boards
of Universities and Colleges

American Diabetes Association

Big Brothers/Big Sisters
of America

Council of Community
Blood Centers

Credit Union National
Association

General Federation of
Womens Clubs

Independent Sector

National PTA

National Society of
Professional Engineers

Water Environment
Federation

Dear Friend:

The National Coalition for Volunteer Protection (NCVP) needs your help to demonstrate support for the Volunteer Protection Act. In the past your backing has helped move this legislation toward passage.

As we approach the second session of the 102nd Congress, it is important that we build co-sponsorship for the Volunteer Protection Act (VPA). In the Senate, the Coalition needs to secure 25 co-sponsors of this legislation in order to convince Senator Howell Heflin (D-AL) to hold hearings on this issue. In the House, where there are already 130 co-sponsors, our Coalition needs to secure 250 co-sponsors so that Congressman John Porter (R-IL), sponsor of the legislation in the House, can work to pass the VPA through traditional or non-traditional means.

Enclosed are draft letters for you to send to your representatives in Congress. Many congressmen will not agree to co-sponsor legislation without a direct request from a constituent. Your action is very important.

State laws covering volunteer liability are still patchwork and inconsistent. Passage of the VPA is needed to ensure that all volunteers in the United States are treated fairly and equitably within our civil justice system.

Thank you for your continued interest in this important issue, and your speedy action.

Sincerely,



Gordon P. MacDougall

P.S. Please send a "blind" copy of your correspondence on this legislation to the National Coalition for Volunteer Protection: 1012 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

JOHN EDWARD PORTER

10TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
MEMBER

CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 1991

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1026 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4835

HOME OFFICES

601-A COUNTY BUILDING
18 NORTH COUNTY STREET
WAUKEGAN, IL 60085
(708) 662-0101

104 WILMOT ROAD
SUITE 410
DEERFIELD, IL 60015
(708) 940-0202

1650 ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD
SUITE 204
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004
(708) 392-0303

SUPPORT AMERICA'S VOLUNTEERS

Dear Colleague:

Earlier this year, I reintroduced H.R. 911, the Volunteer Protection Act. I invite you to sign on as a cosponsor of this most important and necessary legislation.

The Volunteer Protection Act has received tremendous support nation wide from hundreds of volunteer organizations such as the YMCA, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Farm Bureau Federation, The Air Force Association and Big Brother/Big Sister, just to name a few.

This legislation encourages the states to pass laws exempting volunteers serving non-profit organizations and local governments from personal financial liability in any lawsuit against the organization. To receive this protection, volunteers must be acting within the scope of their duties, in good faith, and not in a willful or wanton manner. The non-profit organization itself -- not the individual volunteer -- would answer in court to any injured person. The Act allows the states substantial latitude in crafting their volunteer protection law and provides an incentive for those who do -- a 1% increase in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds which are an important source of support for vital community-based programs.

The Volunteer Protection Act has enormous backing across the nation. It is similar to the Volunteer Protection Amendment to the National Service Act which was unanimously supported by the House last Fall only to be eliminated in conference with the Senate. Passage of the bill will ensure a larger number of volunteers working for the betterment of our communities. If you would like to help support the volunteers of your community, please call Elizabeth Ridgway of my staff (x-4835) to cosponsor H.R. 911.

Sincerely,


John Edward Porter
Member of Congress

DRAFT LETTER TO TARGETED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

REQUESTING COSPONSORSHIP OF S. 1343, THE VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT

The Honorable (name)
United States Senator
(room # and building) *
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

As a (describe position: volunteer, volunteer manager, etc.), of (organization), I respectfully request that you sign on as a cosponsor to S. 1343, the Volunteer Protection Act.

The Volunteer Protection Act would encourage states to pass consistent and comprehensive laws on volunteer liability. This act would encourage states to limit a volunteer's personal liability, (except in cases of willful and wanton misconduct or acts outside the scope of the volunteer's official duties), while protecting an injured party's right to recover damages. It is balanced legislation which deserves your support.

This legislation is necessary because existing state laws covering volunteer liability are patchwork and inconsistent. In addition, several studies have shown that a significant number of Americans are withholding their volunteer services as a result of fear of personal liability exposure.

(Add paragraph, if appropriate, on personal volunteer experiences and volunteer liability concerns). **

This legislation is supported by organizations representing tens of millions of volunteers, and it is opposed by only one organization, the 70,000 member Association of Trial Lawyers of America. I look forward to learning that you will support America's volunteer's, and not the plaintiff's bar, by co-sponsoring this important and necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

* Name and addresses of targeted Members are on attached lists

** Please put this draft letter in your own words and express your own personal experiences with volunteer liability.

*** Please send a blind copy of your letter to: National Coalition for Volunteer Protection, 1012 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

DRAFT LETTER TO TARGETED MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REQUESTING COSPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 911, THE VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT

The Honorable (name)
United States Representative
(room # and building) *
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman (last name):

As a (describe position: volunteer, volunteer manager, etc.), of (organization), I respectfully request that you sign on as a cosponsor to H.R. 911, the Volunteer Protection Act.

The Volunteer Protection Act would encourage states to pass consistent and comprehensive laws on volunteer liability. This act would encourage states to limit a volunteer's personal liability, (except in cases of willful and wanton misconduct or acts outside the scope of the volunteer's official duties), while protecting an injured party's right to recover damages. It is balanced legislation which deserves your support.

This legislation is necessary because existing state laws covering volunteer liability are patchwork and inconsistent. In addition, several studies have shown that a significant number of Americans are withholding their volunteer services as a result of fear of personal liability exposure.

(Add paragraph, if appropriate, on personal volunteer experiences and volunteer liability concerns). **

This legislation is supported by organizations representing tens of millions of volunteers, and it is opposed by only one organization, the 70,000 member Association of Trial Lawyers of America. I look forward to learning that you will support America's volunteer's, and not the plaintiff's bar, by co-sponsoring this important and necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

* Name and addresses of targeted Members are on attached lists

** Please put this draft letter in your own words and express your own personal experiences with volunteer liability.

*** Please send a blind copy of your letter to: National Coalition for Volunteer Protection, 1012 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.