



Michigan Nonprofit Caucus

Background

Despite the breadth of the nonprofit community, it lacked a voice from within the legislature. The various subsectors and the issues of importance to these groups were represented through standing committees in both the Michigan House and Senate. However, there was not a standing committee or volunteer caucus that served this role on behalf of the broader nonprofit community, including both charities and foundations. Without this infrastructure, there was an absence of collective leadership to support and strengthen the sector from within the legislature. The Council of Michigan Foundations, Michigan Nonprofit Association and Michigan Association of United Ways proposed a nonprofit legislative caucus to fill this void. The Caucus was formed and announced in April 2009.

Purpose

The Michigan Nonprofit Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral forum through which lawmakers can collaborate on legislative and regulatory issues impacting charities and foundations in Michigan. The purpose of the Nonprofit Caucus is to enhance the ability of Michigan's nonprofit organizations to achieve their mission on behalf of those they serve and the resources they protect. To accomplish this goal, the Caucus monitors and takes a leadership role on legislative issues that impact Michigan's nonprofit sector and serves as a resource for information on the sector for their legislative colleagues. The Caucus is co-chaired by members of the House and Senate from both sides of the aisle. The primary focus of the caucus is on issues that globally impact the nonprofit sector.

Nonprofit Caucus Members

The Caucus is co-chaired by members of the House and Senate from both sides of the aisle. Co-chairs include Senators Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor), Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit), Mark Jansen (R-Grand Rapids) and John Proos (R-St. Joseph), and Representatives Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit), Vicki Barnett (D-Farmington Hills), Amanda Price (R-Holland) and Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City).

The primary focus of the Caucus is on issues that globally impact the nonprofit sector. In the 2009-10 session, the Caucus had more than 70 members, split almost equally down the aisle. MNA, CMF and MAUW is now in the process of recruiting new members.

Contact

For more information, or to sign up to be a member of the Caucus, please contact Kari Sederburg, Director of Public Policy at Michigan Nonprofit Association at 517-492-2400 or ksederburg@mnaonline.org.

