

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF MINNESOTA



2021 CDMN Virtual Advocacy Day

March 4th, 2021

About

We are currently facing many challenges, including a pandemic laying bare many of the structural inequities in our society, and economic downturn that has resulted in the highest unemployment since the Great Depression, and unprecedented attacks on our democracy that threaten the very fabric of our nation.

Now is the time to come together, to unite and heal. This includes passing major legislation that will guarantee access to goods and services that we all rely on, including access to high quality healthcare, affordable higher educations, ensuring the equal rights and protections for the most vulnerable.

For too long, students have been overlooked by politicians, and we want to make our voices heard. We hope that the 2021 virtual advocacy day will show the organizing force of college students across the state as we come together to advocate for the progressive policies that we care most deeply about.

In this document, you will find many resources to make advocating for the issues that you care about easier. We have included draft emails for a few issues that student leaders from around Minnesota have identified. But, don't feel limited to just these! We hope that the resources that we have put together will help you advocate for the issues that matter to *you*.

Happy lobbying!

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Lobbying Tips and Tricks

Lobbying might sound scary, but it is easy! Here are a few tips and tricks.

- **Reach out to your legislators:** Lawmakers are going to be more receptive to information coming from their own constituents. You can find your legislators [HERE](#) (more information below).
- **Make it Personal:** Let your representative know why you are personally invested in an issue. Don't be afraid to use personal experiences, stories, and narratives in defending your position.
- **Keep it Short:** A message with fewer words is more likely to be read. You are encouraged to use personal stories and appropriate studies, but brevity is important.
- **There is Power in Numbers:** Legislators may be more likely to respond when they get multiple contacts about an issue. Encourage your friends and family to write emails and make phone calls with you!
- **Say "Thank You":** Even if a lawmaker publicly supports your cause, this simple courtesy goes a long way.

Who Represents Me?

Lobbying is most effective when you are able to reach out to the legislators that represent you. If you don't know who they are, you can find them [HERE](#). Make sure to find your State Representative and State Senator for your home (if you are a native Minnesotan) and your college.

To use the tool, simply enter your home or school address in the search bar. Contact information for your State Representative and State Senator can be found here as well.

Enter Address, City, State, and Zipcode
1500 St. Olaf Ave, Northfield MN
Address match!

Todd Lippert (DFL)
MN House - 20B
Contact District

Rich Draheim (R)
MN Senate - 20
Contact District

Angie Craig (DFL)
U.S. House - 2
Contact District

Amy Klobuchar (DFL)
U.S. Senate
Contact District

Tina Smith (DFL)
U.S. Senate
Contact District

Reset Map

Generic Outlines

Email/Letter

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

I am writing in support of / opposition to _____. This issue matters to me because _____.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if a constituent]

Phone Call

You might have to leave a message, but be prepared to talk to a lawmaker or their legislative assistant

Hi there, my name is _____ and I am calling to talk about _____. [Talk about your issue and any relevant legislation here].

Can I get a commitment from the Representative/Senator to support this issue?

Thank you for your time.

Issue Specific Outlines

Below are several email templates for several issues. You are welcome (and encouraged) to personalize the message, especially if you have a personal experience to add.

If you would prefer calling a legislators office rather than emailing, you can use the email drafts for talking points.

100% Carbon Free Energy

Background Info

HF 278 / SF 643 would commit Minnesota's electrical utilities to using 100% clean energy sources by 2040. This is necessary for reversing the effects and causes of climate change.

Email

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

Climate change poses an existential threat to our state, and it is necessary that we take actions to reverse its effects. We are already seeing the effects of climate change in changing weather patterns, more air pollution, and an increased frequency of major floods.

To address this, we have to pass HF 278 / SF 643, which commits Minnesota's electrical utilities to using 100% carbon-free energy sources by 2040. Reversing climate change is necessary to promote the health of our state, generate economic growth and development, and to ensure a livable future.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Affordable Higher Education

Background Info

Americans collectively owe about \$1.7 trillion in student debt, or about \$33,000 per person. This is crippling for many, and the prospects of taking on debt deter many people from considering higher education at all. Reducing in-state tuition costs, or expanding the Minnesota State Grant, will help ensure the Minnesotan students can afford to attend college if they want to.

Email

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

Higher education is important for many reasons, including financial gain, job stability, and the betterment of society. An increasing number of fields are requiring advanced education, making a college degree critical to success in the workforce.

We must ensure that higher education is accessible in Minnesota. Supporting our students by reducing tuition costs will encourage more students to pursue higher education, narrow the opportunity gap, and help reduce student debt. College creates futures, and it is important that it is accessible for all those who wish to attend.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if Constituent]

Climate Justice Curriculum

Background Info

HF 550 / SF 666 requires schools to adopt a climate justice curriculum, which acknowledges the threat of climate change, but highlights that those that will (and are

currently) experience the greatest impacts are those in already marginalized communities.

Email

Dear Representative / Senator _____,

Climate change poses an existential threat to our state and it is important that students are taught this in schools. Legislation requiring schools to adopt a climate justice curriculum, such as HF 550 / SF 666, will help to ensure that climate change is taught in a people-focused way.

Climate change has a number of complex systemic causes and is felt disproportionately by different communities within our state. It is necessary that students have the opportunity to place their own experiences into a greater framework. Climate change is at the intersection of many issues facing our society, and it is important that students learn it as such, ensuring that they will be empowered to be leaders against climate change.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Copper/Nickel Sulfide Mining (Prove it First Legislation)

Background Info

Copper-sulfide mining is a threat to Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness. Prove It First Legislation (HF 149 / SF 59) would require independent scientific proof that a copper-sulfide mine had operated successfully in the United States without environmental harm.

Email (adapted from Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness)

Dear Representative / Senator _____,

Copper-sulfide mining is the greatest threat to Minnesota’s clean water in decades. The proposed Twin Metals and PolyMet copper-sulfide mines pose an existential threat to the Boundary Waters and Lake Superior. To address this danger, the Prove It First Law would require that before a copper-sulfide mine could be permitted in Minnesota, they must first show independent scientific proof that a copper-sulfide mine has operated elsewhere in the United States for at least ten years without causing pollution AND has been closed for at least ten years without causing pollution.

If these mines cannot meet even this basic standard, why would we allow Minnesota's cleanest water to become the Guinea Pig for unproven and risky technology?

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Additional Information

<https://dflenvironment.org/issues/prove-it-first/>

Fully Funding Public Education

Background Info

Fully funding public schools ensures that students receive the support they need. Fully funded schools are able to pay teachers what they are worth, provide support staff, and ensure that schools have enough counsellors and nurses. Right now, funding

Email

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

Education is the single most strategic investment we can make in our state and all students deserve access to a high quality public education. This means that our schools must be supported to ensure that students receive the education they deserve. However, far too often, the quality of education depends on living in the “right” zip code. All schools, whether they are in an urban, suburban, or rural setting, should have the support to provide quality education for their students.

Now is the time when students need to be supported the most. Too many schools operate without nurses, counselors, and support staff who are equipped to help students navigate the trauma and disruption of this unprecedented pandemic.

Education is the tide that raises all boats. We must fully fund public schools and ensure a brighter future for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Heartbeat Bill

Background Info

HF 643 / SF 356 would criminalize abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which is often before the pregnant person knows they are pregnant.

Email

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

I am writing in opposition to HF 643/SF 356, the so-called Heartbeat Bill. This dangerous and misguided bill has already been introduced and deemed unconstitutional in several states. This policy would deny women reproductive healthcare before many even know they are pregnant, and could force many to undergo unregulated procedures as great risk to their health.

The systemic denial of basic healthcare that only a certain group of people needs is discrimination. Ensuring access to abortion for those who need access is a matter of human rights. Everyone should be free to exercise their bodily autonomy and decide when, and if, they will have children. Laws must protect the right to bodily autonomy, otherwise they force pregnant persons to seek unsafe medical care.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Legalizing Marijuana

Background Info

HF 600 / SF 757

Email

Prohibition of Marijuana has failed. Our current policies use valuable law enforcement resources, enrich criminal organizations, and deprive our state of much needed revenue. These outdated policies have rippling effects across communities and individuals across the state.

Adopting HF 600/SF 757 will establish a responsible framework for legalizing marijuana which will expand and better the existing medical marijuana program, address racial disparities, and provide additional revenue for our state.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Other Information

Stop Line 3

Background Info

Via [Stop Line 3](#): Tribal nations, community and environmental groups in Minnesota have fought for six years to stop Canadian oil giant Enbridge Energy from building the massive Line 3 pipeline in Northern Minnesota, to take oil from Canada's tar sands region to Superior, Wis. The pipeline violates several treaties with the Ojibwe people that establish their right to hunt, fish, and gather along the proposed route. The pipeline would cross 200 bodies of water, including the Mississippi River twice. If built, Line 3 would carry hundreds of thousands of barrels a day of tar sands crude oil -- some of the dirtiest oil in the world -- and would contribute the equivalent of 50 coal plants worth of carbon pollution to the atmosphere. Its carbon footprint would exceed the entire state of Minnesota's and, like Keystone XL, would extend the economic viability of the

ultra-polluting crude oil source in a way that one expert famously called “game over for the climate.” Additionally, all pipelines spill and Minnesota’s own Department of Commerce found our local market does not need Line 3 oil. Gov. Walz has moved the project forward by granting permits for construction of the pipeline, but President Biden can halt construction.

Email

Dear Representative/Senator _____, (or President Biden):

I am writing to urge you to support halting the construction of the Enbridge Line 3 project. If completed, Line 3 will violate the treaty rights of Anishinaabe nations and contribute to climate change through the expansion of a dying tar sands industry. Further, all pipelines spill and Minnesota’s own Department of Commerce found our local market does not need Line 3 oil. For these reasons, I am urging you to join me in calling on President Biden to stop construction. It’s well-past time to end the legacy of theft from and destruction of indigenous peoples and territories and Line 3 must be stopped before it harms our climate and pollutes our waters.

Sincerely,

Name

[Address if constituent]

Other Information

www.stopline3.org/

Contact President Biden to call on him to halt construction:

www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Social Media Toolkit

Sample Tweets / Instagram Captions

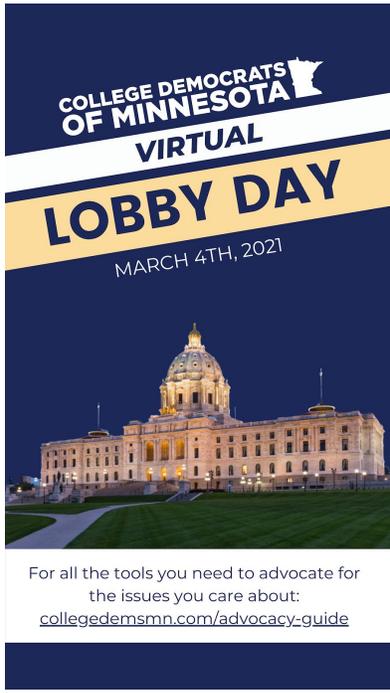
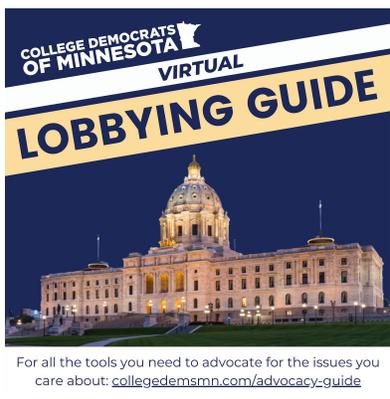
To spread the word about our lobby day:

Today, College Dems across MN are lobbying for the issues we care about. We’re advocating for access to affordable housing, affordable higher education, 100% renewable energy and more to make MN a great state for everyone. #CDMNLobbyDay

To promote the guide:

Advocate for the issues you care about with the College Democrats of Minnesota
 Advocacy Guide: www.collegedemsmn.com/advocacy-guide #CDMNLobbyDay

Graphics

<p>Instagram Stories</p>		
<p>Instagram or Facebook Posts</p>		
<p>Twitter Posts</p>		

