

Dear Chair Carlson & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate File 567 (SF567), which seeks to establish a seven-year prohibition on lobbying activities for high-ranking public officials after they leave office. This legislation is crucial for enhancing the integrity and transparency of our government.

The “revolving door” phenomenon, where officials transition swiftly from public service to lobbying roles, undermines public trust and raises concerns about conflicts of interest. By implementing a substantial cooling-off period, SF567 aims to prevent former officials from leveraging their insider knowledge and connections for private gain, thereby promoting a more ethical governance structure.

Historically, organizations like Common Cause have advocated for such reforms to curb undue influence in politics. Their efforts have led to significant legislative milestones, including the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, which required financial disclosures from government officials and imposed restrictions on post-government employment. SF567 continues this legacy by addressing contemporary challenges posed by the revolving door.

I urge you to support SF567 and take a definitive stand against the erosion of public trust caused by the seamless transition of officials into lobbying positions. Enacting this bill will demonstrate a commitment to ethical governance and the public interest.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Vonna L. David
Arden Hills