

Dear Chair Carlson & Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support the SF567 bill! This bill would allow a 7-year cooling-off period for legislators becoming lobbyists.

This would help prevent unfair influence of using special interests over laws and policies that we had made to help the interests of all Minnesotans.

Without a cooling-off period, these former officials have the ability to leverage relationships and knowledge gained in office, giving special interests an outsized voice in our political system—while leaving everyday Minnesotans at a very unfair disadvantage.

At the national level, we've already seen the consequences of allowing this to continue - the effects are far-reaching. It encourages a culture of self-serving politics, where public office is seen as a pathway to private gain, rather than a responsibility to serve the people. It leads to policy decisions that benefit powerful lobbyists and donors, rather than the needs of regular citizens. And most importantly, it erodes the very foundation of a democracy that should be built on fairness, transparency, and accountability.

The SF567 Bill would help prevent this risk and would help make sure that all of Minnesota can have transparency and fairness in our country.

Kaeli Figallo
Sartell