



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 23, 2025

The Honorable Ann H. Rest
Chair, Taxes Committee
Minnesota Senate
328 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bill Weber
Ranking Minority Leader, Taxes Committee
Minnesota Senate
2211 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2581 (Taxpayer Assistance Grants)

Dear Chair Rest, Ranking Minority Leader Weber, and Members of the Taxes Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in enthusiastic support of SF 2581, which appropriates funding for taxpayer assistance grants and tax credit outreach grants. LSAP is a statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, providing policy, legislative, and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid statewide. Legal Aid's clients include Minnesotans who have low incomes, elderly Minnesotans and Minnesotan with disabilities.

This program represents a most effective use of funds, which redound to the benefit of both the taxpayers receiving the invaluable assistance and the State of Minnesota. The taxpayer assistance grants go to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and Tax Consulting for the Elderly (TCE) providers. This program was established by the IRS to offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including low-income taxpayers, taxpayers with disabilities, and elderly taxpayers. This venerable VITA program has operated for over 50 years. All VITA and TCE volunteers who prepare returns must take and pass tax law training that meets or exceeds IRS standards.

There are many programs that deserve financial support from the Legislature, but none are more deserving than the VITA/TCE tax assistance grant program. LSAP appreciates the opportunity to offer its enthusiastic support for SF 2581 and this important program.

Sincerely,

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney