



WASHINGTON NONPROFITS

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February 13, 2019

The Honorable Sam
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Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Patty
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The Honorable Hans
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The Honorable
Barbara Bailey
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The Honorable Bob
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The Honorable Brad
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Dear Chairman Hunt, Ranking Member Zeiger, and Senate State Government, Tribal Relations, & Elections Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express support for the proposed substitute for SB 5265, Concerning the role of volunteerism within state government. We wholeheartedly agree with the legislature's finding "that volunteers play an important role in enriching our communities." We believe that the proposed study will be helpful to advancing volunteerism for both public and nonprofit organizations. Because of this, we urge you to join us in supporting the bill.

The proposed substitute contains more details about the study than the original version of SB 5265, which makes the proposal stronger. We are particularly supportive of clauses C and D in Section 2 that mandate an examination of the barriers to volunteerism. The findings gained from this piece will be helpful for making volunteer opportunities attractive and workable for individuals looking to support their communities.

We also support Clause G, which mandates research on "strengthening connections between state agency volunteer programs and the state's volunteer infrastructure to support volunteer recruitment, volunteer engagement, and volunteer program training needs." We think that this will provide instructive findings that can be used by nonprofits to strengthen their volunteer programs.

The proposed substitute's provisions will yield a useful study for nonprofits and government alike. To strengthen the study, we respectfully recommend including these additional research items:

- Data on the overall volunteerism landscape in Washington so that there is a holistic picture of how volunteers engage throughout the state.



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- Recommendations on how state agencies and nonprofits can collaborate to ensure that volunteers experience consistency with the ways in which they are recruited, trained, utilized, and thanked for their service.

Washington Nonprofits is delighted to engage on this issue, and I sincerely appreciate Senator Zeiger's discussion with me about SB 5265. If we can be helpful in providing information to inform the study proposal or its implementation, please let us know.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Streeter
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Washington Nonprofits