



Wyoming Nonprofit Network

- ACTION ALERT -

February 15, 2019

[Senate File 144](#) would implement rules requiring able-bodied Medicaid recipients from 18-65 to maintain a schedule of at least 20 hours per week of work, as an enrolled student in a college or employment training program, or as a volunteer for a community service organization.

The Wyoming Nonprofit Network supports programs that promote volunteerism activities that mutually benefit individuals and the people served through nonprofits, but we **oppose** proposals to condition receipt of government-provided benefits on requirements that individuals volunteer at nonprofit organizations, a policy known as “mandatory volunteerism.” This policy would impose **increased costs, burdens and liability on nonprofits** through an influx of coerced individuals.

We are concerned that the bill sponsors have not considered the impact of individuals showing up on the doorsteps of nonprofits in their communities for the purpose of doing time, rather than doing good. As nonprofit staff know all too well, volunteers aren’t free, but require dedicated staff time to orient and supervise. For the safety of children and others they serve, many nonprofits perform background checks on employees and volunteers alike. The costs are justified and necessary. But they are costs, nonetheless.

Under this mandatory volunteerism proposals, nonprofits would be forced to track and certify, under penalty of perjury, the number of hours served. While it may appear to be providing free help to nonprofits, legislation like Senate File 144 is in reality an unfunded mandate with a heavy financial and administrative burden.

SF 144 passed 3rd Reading in the Senate on February 4th; passed narrowly in the House Labor/Health Committee February 14th; and after being discussed in the House Appropriations Committee early next week, will likely be heard in the House on Wednesday or Thursday of next week (Feb 20-21).

Wyoming nonprofits need to stand up to ensure mandatory volunteerism doesn’t interfere with mission advancement. [Contact your Representative](#). Let them know the effects that mandatory volunteerism would have on your nonprofit’s work and that you strongly oppose Senate File 144. If you work with clients that would be impacted by the bill, we encourage to share that information as well. You can find the list of Representatives and their email addresses [here](#).

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