

Coalition of 80 organizations for volunteer drivers thank Rep. Stauber for this week's introduction of federal legislation to increase mileage rate reimbursement

Low 14 cent per mile charitable rate is a barrier to volunteerism



Duluth, MN – April 8, 2021 - This week Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08) introduced the Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2022 ([HF 7432](#)) to increase the federal tax deduction mileage rate for volunteer drivers from its current rate of 14 cents per mile to be equal to the IRS' business rate, currently set at 58.5 cents per mile.

Many Minnesota nondrivers rely on volunteer drivers to travel to and from medical appointments, the grocery store, worship services and other important engagements.

Each year, over 168,000 such rides are provided by more than 2,000 volunteers. While volunteers donate their time, they are eligible to receive reimbursement for the use of their vehicle, without tax implications, at a federally prescribed rate. Currently, while the reimbursement rate for miles driven for business purposes is 58.5 cents per mile **but the charitable rate remains a meager 14 cents per mile.**

“Volunteer drivers provide essential services to help older adults and people with disabilities, remain living in their home communities,” said Jason Swanson, president of the Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging. **“They are a critical part of the system of providing home-delivered meal, an essential service during the pandemic. Volunteer drivers also take part in other life-saving actions, such as transporting donated organs to healthcare facilities.”**

According to Rep. Stauber, **“Volunteering is a selfless act, and our volunteers should not be penalized for their service. The least we can do for our volunteers is to give them peace of mind with adequate reimbursement, and that is exactly what this legislation will do.”**

“The need for this legislation grows more critical everyday as the costs of fuel and vehicle ownership rise sharply,” said Renee Bymark executive director of ElderCircle, Grand Rapids, MN. **“Volunteer driver programs are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and maintain volunteer drivers.”**

More than 80 Minnesota organizations have come together to form the Minnesota Volunteer Driver Coalition to help to get HF 7432 passed and enacted into law. Learn more about the coalition at volunteerdrivermn.org/.

See [Rep. Stauber's press release](#). Follow the bill [here](#). See the full list of the 90 supporting organizations for this bill, click [here](#).

Image: Assisted Transportation2.jpg - ElderCircle Assisted Transportation Program volunteer driver and community member.