

## Dear Lion:

Lions serve in a variety of ways. With any service to the public, safety is of the utmost importance. In the case of an accident or any unfortunate event, a club may be held legally responsible. Originally adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1997, the Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) provides liability protection from claims that might be filed against a nonprofit organization's individual volunteers. In the Act's current form, however, protection from liability **does not** extend to the organization itself, including Lions clubs.

Currently before Congress is another bill called the Volunteer Organization Protection Act or VOPA. This Act would amend the VPA to extend liability protection that's already given to individual volunteers to organizations as well.

We need your help in moving VOPA forward; contact your representative in support of VOPA!

Use one (or more) of these ways to contact your representative:

- Call You can read directly from a phone script;
- Write Send a letter by email, fax or mail; feel free to use this <u>sample letter</u>. We also give <u>step-by-step instructions</u> on how to contact your representative;
- Visit Request and plan a meeting; here's a general calendar of when representatives might be in their local offices;
- **Resources** Visit us online for more information.

You can learn more about VOPA and how important this bill is on our blog.

We would love to see photos of Lions making calls, visiting representatives and sending letters. Email photos (selfies count) to <a href="mailto:governmentrelations@lionsclubs.org">governmentrelations@lionsclubs.org</a>. Don't forget to include your club's name.

Protect your club today; thank you for getting the word out about the importance of VOPA!

Government Relations Lions Clubs International