**Template for programs:**

Dear Representative/Senator (Last Name):

My name is (name) and I am the (your position at organization) at (organization or program). Our agency is located in (location) and we serve (areas served). As a constituent, I would like to request a meeting with you on Thursday, February 1, as part of the Volunteer Iowa Day at the Capitol, to discuss Volunteer Iowa’s legislative priorities and the essential role that volunteers play in the community.

We are a program of [Volunteer Iowa,](http://volunteer.iowa.gov) the state agency responsible for advancing service initiatives as well as developing, communicating, and promoting a statewide vision and ethic of service. Along with other volunteer, mentoring, and national service programs from across Iowa I am participating in this Day at the Capitol to communicate the importance of the volunteer sector. Volunteer Iowa programs provide core services in an extremely cost-efficient manner:

* + For every **$1** appropriated by the state, Volunteer Iowa leverages over $48 in funding (**$16.55** in private dollars and **$32.11** in federal dollars), not including the additional value of volunteer hours.
  + (Add point of how state dollars to Volunteer Iowa impact your program either through financial or technical support).
  + Since the start of the pandemic, the percent of Iowans who volunteer dropped from 53% to 42%, while the need for volunteer support has grown. As well as serving an urgent need in Iowa, research shows volunteering helps improve physical and mental health. Now more than ever, it is critical to support and grow volunteering in Iowa.

(*Share a story and data about your agency/program.* *The best way to connect with a legislator is often a personal story that connects to the policy issues being discussed. Legislators may also want to know about the impact of your agency/program in terms of numbers served, cost savings, etc.*)

To prepare you for our meeting, please review the following documents about Volunteer Iowa program impact and program locations: [Volunteer Iowa Policy Priorities & Program Impact.](https://volunteer.iowa.gov/media/448)and [Volunteer Iowa Service Map.](https://volunteer.iowa.gov/media/451) Your continued support of service and volunteerism in Iowa is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your public service, and I look forward to your response with a time for us to meet on Thursday, February 1 to discuss the impact of Volunteer Iowa’s work in greater detail.

Sincerely,

(Your name and contact information)

**Template for commissioners:**

Dear Representative/Senator (Last Name):

My name is (name) and I am a Volunteer Iowa Commissioner. I am the (title) at (organization) and I live in (location). As a constituent, I would like to request a meeting with you on Thursday, February 1, as part of the Volunteer Iowa Day at the Capitol, to discuss Volunteer Iowa’s legislative priorities and the essential role that volunteers play in the community.

[Volunteer Iowa](http://volunteer.iowa.gov) is the state agency responsible for advancing service initiatives as well as developing, communicating, and promoting a statewide vision and ethic of service. Along with many volunteer, mentoring, and national service programs from across Iowa, I am participating in the Day at the Capitol to communicate the importance of the volunteer sector. Iowa National Service Corps programs provide core services in an extremely cost-efficient manner:

* + For every **$1** appropriated by the state, Volunteer Iowa leverages over $48 in funding (**$16.55** in private dollars and **$32.11** in federal dollars), not including the additional value of volunteer hours.
  + (Add point of how state dollars to Volunteer Iowa impact your program either through financial or technical support).
  + Since the start of the pandemic, the percent of Iowans who volunteer dropped from 53% to 42%, while the need for volunteer support has grown. As well as serving an urgent need in Iowa, research shows volunteering helps improve physical and mental health. Now more than ever, it is critical to support and grow volunteering in Iowa.

(*Share a story about why you wanted to become a commissioner or how your service on the commission has impacted you*.)

To prepare you for our meeting, please review the following documents about Volunteer Iowa program impact and program locations: [Volunteer Iowa Policy Priorities & Program Impact.](https://volunteer.iowa.gov/media/448)and [Volunteer Iowa Service Map.](https://volunteer.iowa.gov/media/451) Your continued support of service and volunteerism in Iowa is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your public service, and I look forward to your response with a time for us to meet on Thursday, February 1 to discuss the impact of Volunteer Iowa’s work in greater detail.

Sincerely,

(Your name and contact information)