THE CORE ACT

Commitment to Official Representation and Engagement Act

Section I. Purpose

The purpose of the CORE Act is to establish clear, measurable standards of accountability for elected officials serving the citizens of Minnesota.

Public service is compensated by taxpayers. Therefore, measurable engagement, documented work activity, and visible representation shall be required.

Just as citizens must demonstrate performance to earn compensation, elected officials must demonstrate performance to retain public trust.

Section II. Weekly Comprehensive Accountability Reporting

All elected Minnesota officials shall submit a detailed weekly accountability report.

Reports must:
• Provide a comprehensive narrative summary of weekly activities
• Describe specific actions taken
• Identify measurable progress where applicable
• Clearly outline legislative, committee, research, and constituent work
• Avoid vague or generic language

Each report shall include:
• Legislative sessions attended
• Committee hearings participated in
• Bills drafted, amended, reviewed, or debated
• Meetings conducted (including constituent meetings)
• Policy research or briefings completed
• Official travel conducted
• Votes cast and explanation of significant votes
• Total hours dedicated to official responsibilities

Reports shall be publicly accessible, permanently archived, and searchable.

Section III. Mandatory Attendance at Core Duties

Attendance is required for:
• Legislative session days
• Official votes
• Assigned committee hearings
• Joint sessions
• Executive or presidential addresses
• Significant governmental functions where representation is reasonably expected

Officials must be physically present unless excused under Section IV.

Section IV. Valid Excused Absences

Valid absences include:
• Documented medical emergency
• Immediate family emergency
• Natural disaster affecting district
• Verified travel disruption

Documentation may be required.

Section V. Accountability and Compensation Adjustment (Attendance)

Unexcused absence from a Core Event shall result in:
• Forfeiture of one week of salary
• Reimbursement of publicly funded travel and related expenses

Repeated violations may trigger ethics review.

Section VI. Official Communications Archiving Requirement

Government-related communications made during official work hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) shall be archived.

This includes:
• Social media posts
• Videos or livestreams
• Online statements

• Digital newsletters
• Public replies concerning official duties

Any communication made outside standard hours while acting in an official capacity shall also be archived.

Citizens may submit recordings of official public events for archival inclusion, subject to authenticity review.

All archived materials shall be searchable, timestamped, permanently preserved, and publicly accessible.

Section VII. Reporting Compliance and Compensation Enforcement

Reports are due by Friday at 11:59 p.m.
Officials may revise until Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
Reports lock Monday for review.

If deficiencies are found, a notice shall be issued Monday.
Officials have until Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. to correct.

If compliant after correction → No penalty.
If still non-compliant → One week salary forfeited.

Failure to submit by Wednesday results in automatic forfeiture.

Repeated failures:
• Two in a quarter → Public notice
• Three in a year → Ethics review referral

Section VIII. Independent Oversight and Compliance Review Board

The CORE Oversight Commission (COC) is established as an independent review body.

Composition:
• One retired judge
• One certified public accountant
• One former ethics/compliance officer
• One records management technology specialist
• Two citizen members selected publicly

The Commission shall:
• Review weekly reports
• Issue compliance determinations
• Authorize compensation adjustments
• Maintain public dashboard
• Oversee archival integrity

Officials may appeal within five business days.
Appeal outcomes shall be public.

Section IX. Statement of Principle

Taxpayers fund public service.
Representation requires presence.
Communication in official capacity belongs to the public.
Transparency is not optional.
Accountability requires proof of work.
Due process ensures fairness.

Public service is compensated work.
If work cannot be demonstrated, compensation is not guaranteed.