

November 13, 2014

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned nonprofit organizations and foundations, are counting on you to provide immediate relief by ensuring that vital giving incentives are restored and expanded. Illinois needs the following tax incentives that provide meaningful resources for our communities across the state and help to enhance the impact that we have:

**Extending the tax deadline for charitable contributions to April 15.** This would encourage donors to increase their giving between January 1 and April 15. Allowing people to deduct contributions up to April 15 would generate \$3 in charitable giving for every \$1 they save in taxes. The charitable sector would also benefit as this would ease the burden of relying heavily on year-end gifts by motivating individuals to give earlier in the year.

**Restoring the IRA charitable rollover.** Taxpayers 70 ½ and older donated more than \$140 million in the first two years that this law was in effect. On several occasions, Congress has allowed this giving incentive to expire or renewed it retroactively. More donors could plan to make gifts from their IRAs to nonprofits and community foundations if they could be certain that this giving incentive is available permanently.

**Restoring and expanding the tax deduction for food inventory.** This giving incentive gets more nutritious food into food banks and helps alleviate hunger for the one in six Illinoisans that report food hardship. Expanding this bill would increase the cap from 10% of income to 15% of income and it makes it easier for Illinois' farmers to take advantage of it. When this incentive was renewed retroactively or allowed to expire, our hunger relief organizations missed out on potential donations of fresh food.

**Restoring the tax deduction for conservation easement donations.** Our nation's land trusts have worked with landowners to increase the pace of land conservation to over a million acres per year. Making this incentive permanent would promote conservation by encouraging more donations by generous landowners.

**Setting a 1 percent excise tax rate on private foundations' investment income.** The current two-tier system serves as a disincentive to increased giving, especially in times of crisis or economic turmoil. Foundations spend considerable time and money every year ensuring the amount spent by

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the end of the year is neither too high nor too low, thus allocating valuable resources to accountants and lawyers rather than Illinois communities and grantees.

We urge you to help pass these provisions before the lame duck session ends in December and thank you for helping us to create a strong and vibrant charitable sector.

Sincerely,

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago  
Addison Center for the Arts  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Annie's Legacy  
The ARK  
Arthritis Foundation  
Arts Alliance Illinois  
Carole Robertson Center for Learning  
Center for Community Development, NFP  
Center for Economic Progress  
Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Chicago Cares  
Chicago Child Care Society  
Chicago Children's Advocacy Center  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)  
The Chicago Help Initiative  
The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired  
Chicago Pre-College Science and Engineering Program  
Children's Place Association  
ChildServ  
CircEsteem  
Citizens Act to Protect our Water (CAPOW!)  
Clearbrook  
Connections for Abused Women and Their Children (CAWC)  
Community Foundation of Grundy County  
Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley  
Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley

CommunityHealth  
Community Renewal Society  
DayOneNetwork, Inc.  
DeKalb County Community Foundation  
Ecker Center for Mental Health  
Eco-Justice Collaborative  
Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Equality Illinois  
Erie Family Health Center  
Evanston Community Foundation  
EverThrive Illinois  
Facing Forward to End Homelessness  
Fifth Wednesday Books, Inc.  
FISH of Park Ridge  
Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Fox Valley Academy of Music Performance  
Gary Comer Youth Center  
God Will Provide Ministries  
GreenTOWN Waukegan, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of McLean County  
HandsOn Suburban Chicago  
Harmony, Hope & Healing  
Historic Chicago Bungalow Association  
Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (H.O.M.E.)  
Huntley Community Radio, Ltd.  
Illinois Collaboration on Youth  
Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League of America  
Illinois Environmental Council  
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation  
Illinois Green Business Association  
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living  
Illinois Network of Charter Schools  
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Imagination Theater  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
The Keystone Foundation for Caring  
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts  
The LeaderShop  
The Legacy Project (Chicago)

Lincoln Park Zoo  
Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry  
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois  
Mercy Home for Boys & Girls  
The Moline Community Foundation  
Mutual Ground, Inc.  
National Veterans Art Museum  
New Trier Educational Foundation  
Northeastern Illinois University Foundation  
Northwest Side Housing Center  
Nuclear Energy Information Service  
Oak Park Regional Housing Center  
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry  
Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago  
Operation Drive  
Operation Warm Inc.  
Options for College Success  
Oral Health America  
Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council  
Passages Alternative Living Program, Inc.  
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative  
Prairie Land Conservancy  
Preservation of Human Dignity  
Pritzker Military Museum & Library  
Rett Syndrome Association of Illinois  
Rhema Empowerment Centre  
Rochelle Area Community Foundation  
Roosevelt University  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Society of Architectural Historians  
Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation  
Spanish Coalition for Housing  
STOP Foodborne Illness  
Storycatchers Theatre  
Thresholds  
Transitions Mental Health Services  
TriCity Family Services, Inc.  
Two Rivers YMCA  
University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary  
We Care of Grundy County, Inc.



Woodstock Institute

WTTW

Young Chicago Authors

Youth & Family Counseling



Celebrating 40 Years

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