

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 22, 2004

Dear Conferees,

We are writing on behalf of the charitable community, large and small, across this country seeking to aid families and better their neighborhoods and communities by helping those in need. As you know, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed legislation in this Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support that provides significant additional incentives for charitable giving around the country and additional resources for efforts to help those in need including innovative Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), increased Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding, and the Compassion Capital Fund. The Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act (CARE) passed the Senate on April 9, 2003, by a vote of 95-5. The House of Representatives passed companion legislation, the Charitable Giving Act, on September 17, 2003, by a vote of 408-13.

Since both the Senate and the House have strongly supported charitable incentives, and since both the Senate and House FSC-ETI (JOBS) bills include charitable reforms which limit existing practices, inclusion of a package of charitable incentives in the FSC-ETI conference is appropriate and within the scope of the conference for this Congress. Furthermore, we believe that any revenue raised through constructive reforms impacting charities should be dedicated to expanding charitable giving incentives in order to help those in need.

We strongly urge the conferees to work with the many sponsors and supporters of the CARE Act in the Senate and the Charitable Giving Act in the House to include the significant provisions shared by both bills and full and fair consideration of those that differ-- for the benefit of all Americans. The time has come to expand the tools of generosity and increase resources for those in need in a bipartisan fashion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Rick Santorum  
United States Senator



Joseph Lieberman  
United States Senator