

**Council on Foundations • Easter Seals • Independent Sector • Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes • National Council of Nonprofit Organizations
United Jewish Communities • United Way of America • YMCA of the USA**

American Assoc. of Homes
and Services for the Aging

September 15, 2004

American Assoc. of
Museums

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House

American Council on Gift
Annuities

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

American Heart Assoc.

American Society of
Association Executives

American Symphony
Orchestra League

Dear Mr. President:

Americans for the Arts

The ARC of the U.S.

As you stated this summer, “the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens.” We agree. The undersigned organizations comprise the “armies of compassion” that you have so eloquently and frequently spoken about to the American people. In order to continue our vital work, it is critical that the Congress complete action this year on legislation to expand our capacity to serve those in need—in America and around the world.

Assoc. of Jewish Aging
Services of North America

Assoc. of Jewish Family and
Children’s Agencies

Charity Lobbying in the
Public Interest

Council for Advancement
and Support of Education

Donors Forum of Chicago

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Internat’l Association of
Jewish Vocational Services

Jewish Council for Public
Affairs

Specifically, we write to ask for your leadership in urging the Congress to include provisions of the CARE bill in the pending tax extenders legislation (H.R. 1308) or corporate tax legislation (H.R. 4520). Provisions in S. 476, the Charity, Aid, Recovery and Empowerment Act (CARE), and the companion House bill, H.R. 7, would create powerful new charitable giving incentives, such as tax-free distributions from IRAs donated to charities.

Jewish Federation of
Metropolitan Chicago

Land Trust Alliance

Literary Network: A
national coalition of literary
nonprofits

Love Our Children USA

Michigan Nonprofit Assoc.

National Assembly of Health
and Human Service
Organizations

National Association of
Independent Schools

National Association of
Social Workers

National Wildlife Federation

North Carolina Center for
Nonprofits

Pennsylvania Assoc. of
Nonprofit Organizations

Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America

United Cerebral Palsy

United Negro College Fund

As you know, the CARE legislation has broad bipartisan support. On April 9, 2003, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the CARE bill (95-5) and, on September 17, 2003, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7 by a similarly large margin (408-13). However, due to election year tensions over tax policy and the political dynamics of House-Senate conference committees, this vital legislation is languishing.

Only your leadership can move the CARE bill to enactment. We respectfully ask that you urge congressional leaders in the strongest possible terms to include the CARE bill in the conference report on the tax extenders bill or corporate tax legislation. By expanding resources available to our nation’s armies of compassion, enactment of the CARE legislation will make us a stronger nation.

Respectfully,

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Association of Museums
American Council on Gift Annuities
American Heart Association
American Society of Association Executives

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American Symphony Orchestra League
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The Arc of the United States
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America
Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies
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United Cerebral Palsy
United Jewish Communities
United Negro College Fund
United Way of America
YMCA of the USA