

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 27, 2009

Senator Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
The Capitol, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
The Capitol, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Harkin and Cochran,

We are writing to urge you to appropriate the full amount authorized under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program (NCBP). As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, we have worked for several years in a bipartisan fashion on oversight of tax-exempt organizations and efforts to strengthen the nonprofit sector. We were pleased to sponsor the inclusion of the NCBP program in the Serve America Act and we view it as an important priority in this continued effort.

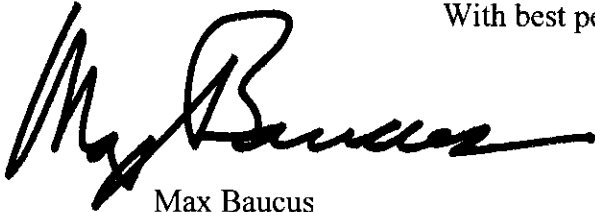
The NCBP program will connect government funds with private-sector funds to provide critical education and training to small and midsize charities. Small charities around our country serve people in need of food or clothing, run afterschool programs, provide housing counseling, and other services that are vital to our communities. But in many cases, these small charities lack access to education opportunities where they might learn how to manage the charity's finances, accurately comply with legal and tax requirements, fundraise effectively, adopt new computer programs or plan a long-term budget.

The Serve America Act, through the NCBP, authorizes the Corporation for National and Community Service to make matching grants, up to \$5 million per year for five years, to nonprofit organizations with a state-wide or region-wide reach so they will, in turn, provide training like that described above. The NCBP Program requires that its grants be dollar-for-dollar matching grants. The match must come from non-federal sources, such as private foundations or corporate giving programs.

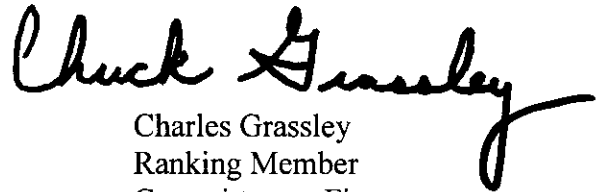
The National Council of Nonprofits, Independent Sector, and the Alliance for Children and Families have voiced their strong support for this program.

The Serve America Act greatly expanded opportunities for service through local nonprofit organizations. However, we believe without programs such as NCBP, many nonprofit organizations may not be able to effectively and efficiently utilize the increased resources the Act provides. For this reason, we urge you to fully fund the Nonprofit Capacity Building Program in this year's Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

With best personal regards,



Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance



Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance

cc: Diana Aviv, CEO, The Independent Sector
Steve Gunderson, President & CEO, Council on Foundations
Tim Delaney, CEO, National Council of Nonprofit Organizations
Peter Goldberg, CEO, Alliance for Children and Families
Brian Magee, Executive Director, Montana Nonprofit Association
Sandy Boyd, Founder, Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center