



AUGUST ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Sample Advocacy E-mail Language

Updated: July 23, 2015

*Use the sample language below as a guide for writing a letter to your Senators to urge them to push for inclusion of the America Gives More Act provisions in an end-of-year tax bill. Please remember to **E-MAIL** your Senator's office whenever possible. Due to heightened security, it can take up to a month for Members to receive letters sent via regular mail.*

Dear **[Representative or Senator's last name]**:

The **[FOUNDATION NAME]** exists to serve **[NAME COMMUNITY/LOCATION]**. Our mission is to **[INSERT MISSION HERE]**.

One example of our work is **[EXAMPLE HERE]**. Public policy should support and strengthen philanthropy and the impacts of giving on our community in **[NAME COMMUNITY/LOCATION]**.

I strongly urge you to support the provisions that were set forth in the *America Gives More Act*—specifically, with regard to the charitable “tax extenders” and simplification of the private foundation excise tax.

These charitable “tax extenders” are critically important to philanthropy in our community and around the country. In the past, Congress has extended these provisions on a temporary, one year basis. While they have done so annually, concern that legislators like you will allow them to expire creates tremendous uncertainty for nonprofits, donors, organizations like mine, and the individuals and community we serve, including your constituents in **[NAME LOCATION]** who depend on the programs and services offered.

One such provision included in the “extenders” is the IRA charitable rollover. The rollover enables individuals to make transfers of up to \$100,000 directly from their individual retirement account (IRA), to the qualified charity of their choice without first having to claim that as taxable income. Rollover donations help countless public charities to fulfill their charitable purposes in our communities, while enabling individuals to choose where and to what causes and organizations to give. **[IF POSSIBLE,**



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PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OR AMOUNT THAT REPRESENTS THE VALUE OF THE ROLLOVER IN YOUR COMMUNITY].

The *America Gives More Act of 2015* (formerly H.R. 644) also proposed simplifying the private foundation excise tax to a single rate. The private foundation excise tax is also critically important to philanthropy in [NAME COMMUNITY/LOCATION] because it both removes a considerable administrative burden for foundations, and also eliminates the disincentive for foundations to increase giving to address unanticipated events, like [IF POSSIBLE, NAME A SITUATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT WAS UNEXPECTED AND WOULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM PHILANTHROPY; EX: NATURAL DISASTER].

Philanthropy is successful because it is flexible and innovative in how it directs resources to address community needs both immediately and on an ongoing basis.

On behalf of the [FOUNDATION NAME], I urge you to voice your support for the provisions that were included in the *America Gives More Act*. Your community depends upon it. Please feel free to reach out to me as a resource on these issues and how they impact our community now and in the future.

Sincerely,

[Name, position]