**Sound Measures for Challenging Times**

*(Philanthropy Week 2014 - Template Op-ed)*

By [INSERT NAME OF AUTHOR]

There are countless examples of foundations providing innovative solutions during challenging times. From the polio vaccine to the 911 emergency system, philanthropy has created results in ways the government and for-profit sector simply cannot. Fortunately, we took advantage of the opportunity to share the stories of our creative problem solving with members of Congress.

During *Philanthropy Week in Washington*, [INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION] joined a philanthropic delegation from across the country on Capitol Hill to articulate our impact and highlight the role of foundations in society. And our timing could not have been better.

As federal lawmakers set the stage for comprehensive tax reform, they must understand what’s at stake. Simply put, tax policy matters. The right changes to the tax code have the ability to enhance and expand the positive work of foundations and nonprofit grantees. However, ill-advised changes could constrain our sector, resulting in harmful effects on the communities we serve.

For example, if the Administration’s proposed 28 percent cap on the value of charitable donations is imposed, donations could decline by as much as $9.4 billion the first year alone according to the American Enterprise Institute. This decline in giving will severely hinder our work at a time when many households are already on the brink and our communities need us the most.

Nonprofits – which are largely supported through charitable giving – generate more than $1 trillion every year through jobs and human services. In addition, they employ one in ten workers throughout the country, representing nearly 14 million jobs. And even right here in [CITY OR STATE], our presence in the community is being felt. [INSERT LOCAL EXMAPLE (75-100 words) OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AT WORK – A PROGRAM OR SERVICE PROVIDED WITH THE SUPPORT OF CHARITABLE GIVING. INSERT A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES AND TRANSFORM LIVES, WHO AND HOW MANY PEOPLE IT SERVES AND THE RESULTS IT HAS ACHIEVED.]

Fortunately, our impact also resonates with influential champions on Capitol Hill.

[INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION] applauds the 33 senators [INSERT MENTION OF YOUR SENATOR IF APPLICABLE], led by Sen. John Thune (R-SD) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), that signed the joint letter supporting the charitable deduction in its current form. These Senators have shown leadership in supporting the nonprofit sector and preserving its important role. In turn, [INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION] and others in the philanthropic sector will boldly stand together against proposals that would constrain American generosity. At a time of critical and growing community needs, we must work together to find ways to strengthen and protect the philanthropic sector.

Our hope is that elected officials in Washington understand that thriving philanthropy will produce thriving communities. Moreover, philanthropy is working every day to create economic opportunity, support vital human services, and spur innovation.

I encourage Washington to protect charitable giving and the local nonprofits that it supports.

*[INSERT AUTHOR’S NAME, TITLE AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTED]*