FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: [INSERT NAME]

[INSERT DATE] Phone: [INSERT NUMBER]

 Email: [INSERT EMAIL]

**Foundations to Congress: Thriving Philanthropy = Thriving Communities**

*Lawmakers Must Understand Tax Policy Consequences for Philanthropy, Millions in Need*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As federal lawmakers seek to streamline the tax code, raise revenue, and reduce the budget deficit, now is not the time for political expedience, [INSERT NAME/ORGANIZATION] said today. Tax and budget decisions in Washington, D.C. have cascading consequences for our communities and require a thorough and honest analysis of the consequences of tax policy.

That is why [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] is particularly concerned about some proposed tax policy changes that would hurt philanthropy’s effectiveness. It would mean disaster for our nonprofits and the millions who rely on the generosity of donors at all income levels.

“We are proud to play an important role in this community to provide jobs, create opportunities, support the vulnerable, spur research and foster innovation,” said [INSERT NAME, TITLE, NAME OF ORGANIZATION]. “Tough economic times require a constant source of ideas and solutions and philanthropy is on the frontlines working daily to ensure critical services to our community are provided. We can’t afford to jeopardize that.”

**Understanding Philanthropy’s Value**

Fortunately, many lawmakers in Washington understand the value of philanthropy. The House Ways and Means Committee recently approved a number of measures that would protect and enhance philanthropy’s ability to serve communities throughout America. One proposed bill would make the IRA charitable rollover permanent, allowing donors to give with more certainty. Another would simplify the private foundation excise tax, freeing up time and resources for foundations to spend where they are needed most.

**Communities Remain at Risk**

But other potentially harmful proposals remain on the table. According to the American Enterprise Institute, the proposed 28 percent cap on the value of charitable donations could reduce giving by as much as $9.4 billion the first year if enacted. This translates into lost jobs, a slower economic recovery, and less support for the most vulnerable. A proposal in House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp’s tax reform plan would impose a floor on the charitable deduction, denying donors the full value of their deduction. This would cause a decline in charitable giving, especially for those people making smaller donations.

Another harmful proposal would impose a stringent payout requirement on donor advised funds (DAFs). DAFs are unique vehicles that allow people to “give where they live” and channel their philanthropic giving to the community’s benefit. [INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] supports keeping the current law, which permits community foundations to hold and manage donor-advised funds to support worthy causes in the community for years to come.

[INSERT ORGANIZATIONS’ NAME] is working with foundations, nonprofits and other charitable organizations throughout the country to make sure all lawmakers clearly understand how philanthropy is uniquely positioned to help provide a path to success for millions – often in ways government and for-profit entities cannot. Philanthropy works in communities every day to combine resources, respond to emerging needs, and deliver innovative solutions and results that extend for generations. Consider:

* Foundation investments generate billions of dollars in economic activity and millions of jobs over time.
* Nonprofits – which are supported largely through charitable giving – generate more than $1 trillion every year through jobs and services and employ 1 in 10 U.S. workers, resulting in nearly 14 million jobs.

Right here in [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.]

“Changes to the tax code can strengthen and expand the work we do to build a strong, resilient economy and thriving communities,” said [INSERT NAME, TITLE, ORGANIZATION]. “We appreciate the tough decisions federal lawmakers face in overcoming America’s fiscal problems, but cutting off a lifeline to communities in need does more harm than good.”

For more information on [YOUR ORGANIZATION], contact [YOUR ORGANIZATION PRESS CONTACT]

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