

Dear Senator/Representative XXXXX,

On behalf of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, our 110+ nonprofit partner agencies, 50,000+ donors and the 200,000+ people we serve, I urge you to support a \$60 billion economic relief and stimulus package to America's charities as part of the \$1 trillion "Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act."

The COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact is profound, and requires an unprecedented mobilization from the charitable sector. Charities are the front-line responders to need: we provide food, shelter, medical services and other critical services in every community. The fallout of this crisis will include a surge in need, as hundreds of thousands of individuals lose work and the ability to pay their bills. At the same time, America's charities are bracing for a significant decrease in charitable giving, as happened following the 2008 recession.

In response, **America's charitable nonprofits need an immediate capital infusion of \$60 billion to maintain operations, expand scope to address increasing demands, and stabilize losses from closures throughout the country.** As communicated to you by a national coalition of charities, we strongly recommend the following policy actions to help the nonprofit sector sustain our support of the American people:

**Economic Stimulus:** Nonprofits are on the frontlines, serving people in need. A \$60 billion package of emergency stimulus funding distributed through multiple funding streams (such as the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program for nonprofit employers, or emergency grants through federal, state, local, and other pass-through entities) will help provide the business continuity relief we need.

**Tax Policy:** As 10% of U.S.GDP, charities employ 12 million American workers. Any tax policy plan targeted at employers should include the taxes nonprofits pay, such as payroll taxes. Further, Congress should also ensure that any support to assist for-profit businesses, such as unemployment insurance, employee retention, and risk insurance, also addresses the unique challenges and realities that nonprofits face.

**Charitable Giving Incentives:** To incentivize all Americans to support the vital work of America's charities, we call on Congress to enact an "above-the-line" or universal charitable deduction for contributions through the end of 2021. Further, Congress should permit taxpayers to donate today – at the height of the pandemic – and claim the benefit from these deductions on 2019 tax returns.

This legislative effort offers our best – and likely last – chance to make a transformative investment in our country's COVID-19 relief efforts. I implore you to prioritize America's charitable nonprofits, so that we can continue to support the Health, Education and Financial Stability of our nation.

Sincerely,

Amy Lindner

President and CEO

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County