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Margaret Mitchell
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701 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET
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The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 2023

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

Leadership 18 thanks you for your ongoing commitment to encourage and empower Americans to support their communities through charitable giving. We urge you to support the renewal and expansion of the universal charitable deduction for non-itemizing taxpayers.

In 2020, Congress enacted a temporary non-itemizer deduction on charitable donations in the CARES Act. It included a \$300 cap for individuals and a \$600 cap for couples. Data from the Association for Fundraising Professionals led Fundraising Effectiveness Project (FEP) showed that the non-itemizer deduction incentivized charitable giving. Unfortunately, the deduction expired at the end of 2021 and inflation is blunting the impact of increased giving. Data just released from FEP comparing the first half of 2022 with the first half of 2021 show the negative impact of the economy and the real-life impact of the expiration of the universal charitable deduction. There has been a collapse in the number of small-gift supporters with 17 percent fewer donors giving \$100 or less and eight percent fewer donors giving between \$101-\$500.

The bipartisan *Charitable Act* would help address some of these challenges by restoring and extending the universal charitable deduction. The legislation would raise the cap and extend the availability of the deduction through the 2024 tax year among other changes to support charities and the communities they serve. This legislation also enjoys broad public support. Polling released in September 2022 from Independent Sector found 85 percent of Americans support permanent restoration of UCD for non-itemizers and 77 percent support expanding the deduction cap to \$4,000.

Leadership 18 is an alliance of CEOs responsible for leading some of the country's largest and most well-respected charities, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations. As a group, member organizations have in the last two decades served over 400 million people, with 42.7 million staff and volunteers, and represent \$80 billion in total revenue. We are a community of leaders who share a profound commitment to ensuring all people can contribute to a vibrant America, and with opportunity and effort, can live their lives to their fullest potential.

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In these difficult economic times, the universal charitable deduction ensures that those who can support their communities financially, can do so without hurting their own pocketbook. It is only due to the generosity of our donors that charitable nonprofits can fulfill their missions and provide services to individuals and families across the nation. Leadership 18 offers our continued support and urges you to support the *Charitable Act* and its renewal and expansion of the universal charitable deduction through 2024.

Sincerely,

Leadership 18
(CEO Signers Below)



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CEO

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Nancy Brown
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**American Heart
Association**



Gail McGovern
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*Executive Committee Member

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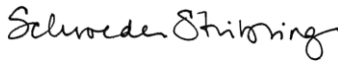
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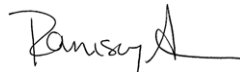
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