



The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the Idaho Nonprofit Center, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and Independent Sector with members and services in Idaho, we want to express support for the inclusion of the bipartisan Legacy IRA Act (S. 243) sponsored by Senators Cramer and Stabenow in future retirement legislation, such as the "Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2021."

First, we want to thank you for your leadership in the past year to support relief for charities impacted by COVID-19. A key ask by the nonprofit sector was to promote charitable giving, and the temporary non-itemizer charitable deduction through 2021 will help many of us meet an increased demand for services.

Further, we appreciate you placing a priority on increasing retirement savings so more individuals can plan for a financially secure retirement. Just as COVID-19 has shaken the economic support for millions of individuals and their families that will have long-term consequences on their finances and retirement, nonprofits continue to face serious challenges now and well into the future. Prior to the pandemic, charitable nonprofits employed more than 12 million people, making them the third largest industry in the country – larger than the construction, financial services, and manufacturing industries. As of June 2021, the nonprofit sector is still missing nearly 700,000 jobs due to the pandemic.

As part of the broader Securing a Strong Retirement Act, the Legacy IRA Act will encourage more charitable giving by enabling seniors to make contributions from their individual retirement accounts (IRA) to charities through life-income plans. This is a key demographic as seniors typically make up more than 40% of the donor base for charities. It is an important piece of broader efforts to support nonprofits and the communities they serve. As you know, many of our organizations are dependent on private philanthropy, including gift planning. We believe the Legacy IRA Act offers seniors another philanthropic option and would incentivize more giving to help charities while helping middle-income seniors who need a lifetime income.

We were pleased that a modified version of the Legacy IRA Act was already included in the Ways and Means-passed Securing a Strong Retirement Act in May. We strongly support the inclusion of the Legacy IRA Act as part of the Securing a Strong Retirement Act. America is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to give, to get involved, and to strengthen their communities.

Sincerely,

Idaho Nonprofit Center Independent Sector American Heart Association American Red Cross