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**VOLUNTEERS CLOSER TO RELIEF FROM HIGH GAS
PRICES AS CARDIN AND SNOWE JOIN WITH SCHUMER
AND ENSIGN TO REINTRODUCE BILL TO ALLOW
CHANGES TO CHARITABLE MILEAGE DEDUCTION RATE**

Senate Allies Rally Around House Compromise Bill

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators **Benjamin L. Cardin** (D-MD) and **Olympia Snowe** (R-ME) joined forces with Senators **Chuck Schumer** (D-NY) and **John Ensign** (R-NV), along with Senators **Russ Feingold** (D-WI), **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD) and **Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), to introduce updated legislation that would provide relief to volunteers who use their personal vehicle for charitable activities. Under current law, mileage rates for charitable activity are fixed under the Internal Revenue Code at just 14 cents per mile. However, the average cost of a gallon of regular gas has more than doubled in the last eight years and far outpaces the deduction limits.

The new bill introduced Monday, the *Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere Act of 2008* (GIVE Act/S. 3532), would give the IRS discretion in setting the mileage deduction rate for volunteers and charitable organizations, which could be as high as (or higher than) the business mileage deduction but not lower than the deduction for moving and medical expenses. Currently, the IRS is able to increase the deduction amount for medical, moving and business expenses to reflect current economic conditions because the rate is not written into the law.

“This is a win-win for volunteers and the people who so desperately need their help in the midst of our current economic crisis,” said **Senator Cardin**. “I am proud to stand with so many leaders in the U.S. Senate who understand that Congress has a responsibility to act swiftly, so that the IRS can ease the burden on charitable volunteers who share their time and resources with some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

“As the cost of a barrel of oil jumped \$19 dollars yesterday, it is critical that we work to keep high energy prices from deterring charitable acts and volunteerism,” **Senator Snowe** said. “This bipartisan legislation will alleviate transportation costs for volunteers and bolster the charitable community in this economically turbulent time.”

“The size of the gas mileage deduction for charity workers is paltry and antiquated. Right now, charities are being punished because the law has not kept pace with the spike in gas costs. The bottom line is, delivering meals on wheels shouldn’t put you in the fast lane to the poor house. I have long urged this fix because it will allow charity workers to keep doing their important work despite the pain at the pump,” **Senator Schumer** said.

“Too often our laws and regulations become outdated,” said **Senator Ensign**. “This is yet another example, and the result is that current law discourages people from volunteering. The reimbursement rate for charitable deductions for mileage driven needs to keep pace with the cost of gasoline. Fortunately, a broad bipartisan group of Senators is pushing for this bill to become law so that the IRS can fix this technical glitch and volunteers can be justly compensated for the costs they incur driving seniors to the hospital or delivering food to those in need.”

Congressmen **John Lewis** (D-GA) and **Jim Ramstad** (R-MN), Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight, introduced identical legislation, the ***Fair Deal for Volunteers Act (H.R. 6854)***, earlier this month.

The ***Cardin-Snowe-Schumer-Ensign-Mikulski-Grassley GIVE Act*** is co-sponsored by a growing number of Senators, including: Cardin, Snowe, Schumer, Ensign, Mikulski, Grassley, Feingold, and

Evan Bayh (D-IN)
Joseph Biden (D-DE)
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)
Chris Dodd (D-CT)
Tom Harkin (D-IA)
John Kerry (D-MA)
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Carl Levin (D-MI)
Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)
Patty Murray (D-WA)
Barack Obama (D-IL)
Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Richard Burr (R-NC)
Susan Collins (R-ME)
Mike Crapo (R-ID)
Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)
Gordon Smith (R-OR)
Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
John Sununu (R-NH)
John Warner (R-VA)

The following organizations have expressed their support for this legislation:

National Organizations

American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging
American Cancer Society Action Network
American Heart Association
American Red Cross
American Society of Association of Executives
Catholic Charities USA
Easter Seals
Experience Wave
Feeding America (formerly known as America’s Second Harvest)

Fulbright Association
 Habitat for Humanity International
 Independent Sector
 League of American Orchestras
 Lutheran Services in America
 Meals on Wheels Association of America
 National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A)
 National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
 National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
 National Council on Aging
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 National Seniors Corps Association
 Points of Light Institute
 United Jewish Communities
 United Way of America
 YMCA of the USA

State Organizations

Arizona Community Media Foundation	AZ
Gabriel's Angels, Inc.	AZ
Girls Scouts- Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc.	AZ
Hospice of the Valley	AZ
Youth on Their Own	AZ
Yuma Conservation Garden, Inc.	AZ
Golden State Donor Services	CA
Jewish Family Service of Colorado	CO
Greater Washington Partnership for Palliative & End-of-Life Care	DC
Lutheran Social Services of North Florida	FL
Georgia Center for Nonprofits	GA
American Red Cross, Wyandotte County Chapter	KS
Jewish Family & Vocational Services	KY
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations	LA
Bethesda Health Center	MD
Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations	MD
Montgomery College	MD
Nehemiah Community Revitalization Corporation	ME
Bloomfield Township Senior Services	MI
Calvin College	MI
Communities in Schools of Lenawee	MI
Focus: HOPE	MI
Lenawee Community Foundation	MI
MARO Employment and Training Association	MI
Mercy Hospital-Port Huron	MI
Michigan Association of Nonprofits	MI
Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo	MI
Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota	MN
Minnesota Nonprofit Associations	MN
Humanitri	MO
Befrienders	MT
Heisey Youth Center	MT
North Carolina Center for Nonprofits	NC
Shepherd's Center of Winston-Salem	NC

The New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits	NH
The Bach Foundation	NJ
Habitat For Humanity of New York	NY
Thousand Islands Area Habitat for Humanity	NY
UJA-Federation & Jewish Philanthropies of New York, Inc.	NY
NE Ohio Greyhound Rescue	OH
University Hospitals Case Medical Center	OH
Metropolitan Family Service	OR
Yamhill County CASA Program	OR
A Child's Haven	SC
Increasing H.O.P.E. Financial Training Center	SC
South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations	SC
The ACCESS Network Inc.	SC
UpperEx National Outreach Coalition	SC
CASA of Johnson County	TX
Instruments of Peace	TX
National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum	TX
Spirit Horse Therapy	TX
The Turning Point	TX
A Caring Heart	WA
CDM Services	WA
Human Services Council	WA
MOSAIC Arts Alliance	WA
Nonprofit Network of Southwest Washington	WA
Vancouver Watersheds Council	WA
WA Advocates of Ozaukee	WI
Barron County	WI
Marquette Co. Commission on Aging	WI
The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, Inc.	WI

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