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Tuesday, March 8, 2005

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Radanovich, Santorum Urge Americans to Increase Charitable Giving through the “One Percent Plan”

Radanovich Joined by Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) to Unveil Senate-House Joint Resolution

Washington, DC-- Representative George Radanovich and Senator Rick Santorum unveiled their Joint House-Senate Resolution on the “One Percent Plan” during a news conference today, urging Americans to increase their charitable giving by one percentage point nationally. Currently, the charitable giving rate as a measure of individual personal disposable income is at 1.9% and has stalled between 1.5-2.2% for the past 50 years. The goal is to increase charitable giving from two percent to three percent as a national average. This one percent charitable giving increase would equal over \$90 billion for charities nationwide.

"This Plan is urgent, revolutionary, simple and bipartisan," **Radanovich said**. "If you don't give, begin to give; if you do give, please give a little more—the spirit of the American people will ultimately give life to our project today."

“Many organizations in the United States rely on the charity and generosity of others as a source of revenue so they can provide services to those who are less fortunate,” **said Senator Santorum**. “As a caring and compassionate society, it is our responsibility to help improve the quality of life for more Americans. If Americans increased their current rate of giving by one percent, the charitable organizations who work hard to improve the landscape of our country every day will benefit tremendously.”

Senator Santorum has also sponsored legislation that encourages giving through incentives to businesses and individuals who help those in need. The Charity Aid, Recovery and Empowerment Act (CARE Act) provides individuals with the opportunity to give tax-free contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes. The CARE Act is included in S.6, the Marriage, Opportunity, Relief and Empowerment Act of 2005.

"Just like any change in the unemployment rate makes national headlines, the same should go for America's charitable giving rate. Our economy is just as interdependent on charitable giving as it

is on employment numbers—we need to begin a charitable giving index. This Plan is urgent because with additional charitable funds, calls for new tax increases would diminish and we could potentially reduce the deficit. While the initiative exhorts - not legislates - participation, its sole purpose is to challenge Americans to increase their charitable giving." **Radanovich said.**

Bill Bentley, COO of Points of Light Foundation, Dr. Arthur Brooks, Associate Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Non-profit Studies Program at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Paul Thornell, Vice President of Public Policy for the United Way also made remarks.

In addition to submitting this Joint Resolution, Radanovich is working with the Committee on Joint Taxation to determine whether an index, similar to the unemployment index can be implemented for America.

Additionally, Radanovich will meet with the leaders of various national philanthropies to discuss beginning a non-profit whose sole purpose would be to increase charitable giving by one percentage point nationally.

“When we join the kind hearts of America’s citizenry with the capabilities of America’s corporations and non-profit community, nearly anything is possible,” **Radanovich said.**

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