

June 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of the undersigned nonprofits with members and services in Oregon, including charities and faith-based organizations, 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 your support of the temporary above-the-line 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. According to the latest monthly employment figures, the nonprofit sector is still down by nearly 800,000 jobs, and according to the Johns Hopkins' Center for Civil Society Studies, it will take nearly two years for the sector to return to our pre-pandemic level of employment.

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 facilitate our sector's long-term recovery. 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,