Date

The Honorable xx

U.S. House of Representatives

<address>

Dear Representative xx:

You don’t have to look very far to see the difference charitable giving makes in our daily lives. Here in Indiana charitable-minded individuals have contributed to the richness of our state in countless ways--supporting our public schools and universities, libraries, cultural institutions, hospitals and parks. Through their generosity, Hoosiers have helped Hoosiers by providing support to the vulnerable and less fortunate in the form of food, shelter, clothing, medical treatment and a hope for the future through education and job training. Indeed, philanthropy has a long and rich history in our nation and here in Indiana!

Philanthropy’s role is more imperative than ever for a faster, sustainable economic recovery. To that end, Congress has the opportunity to support – not hamstring – charitable giving in America through common-sense tax and investment policies. **Reinstatement of the IRA charitable rollover is one of those policies.** The tax-free distribution of Individual Retirement Account (IRA) assets to qualified charities, originally enacted with the Pension Protection Act of 2006, has had widespread and significant impact in using private dollars for the common good. ***Indiana community foundations have received more than $2 million dollars in gifts specifically from donors utilizing the IRA rollover.*** Those gifts have been used to support nonprofit organizations addressing critical community issues. One donor’s gift supported a local food pantry and humane shelter; another retired the debt on a local community center building, allowing it to operate without the burden of a mortgage, focus on its own sustainability and expand its outreach within the community. Many others have provided higher education scholarship opportunities for deserving students seeking to better their lives and the lives of their families. Here in (insert the XX community foundation’s example of a donor’s gift and how it has provided lasting impact).

H.R.4619 was recently introduced by Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL) and Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) to permanently extend the IRA charitable rollover provision that has offered Hoosier taxpayers ages 70 ½ and older the ability to donate up to $100,000 from their IRAs and Roth IRAs without having to treat the withdrawals as taxable income. The IRA charitable rollover, along with the entire package of tax extenders, was allowed to expire on January 1 for the fourth time in recent years. On each of the three previous occasions, the entire package of extenders was reinstated retroactively at the end of the following year. While this may be an adequate solution for most of the provisions in the extenders package, the charitable provisions like the IRA charitable rollover are different.

The tremendous uncertainty caused for donors by lapses and subsequent reinstatement has made it extremely difficult for donors and financial advisors to plan IRA distributions and related charitable giving strategies, impeding the transfer of gifts that support much-needed services. Many of these planning discussions begin early in the tax year, and without a clear, statutory grant of authority, many donations that might otherwise have been made simply are not. Retroactive enactment is a further hollow benefit for the charitable community because mandatory IRA withdrawals taken during the year cannot be retroactively “rolled over” to a charity.

**We ask that you consider signing on as a co-sponsor of H.R.4619.** While philanthropy can never substitute government’s role in society, there are many opportunities in which we can further promote the common good together. Congress’s ability to encourage giving by enabling Americans to use their IRAs to support worthy charities in their communities is one such opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If (the XXX community foundation sending this letter) can provide additional information or be helpful in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,