

The CARE Act (S. 272): Helping Those in Need



- The CARE Act, the Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2003, S.272, will help people in need by encouraging GIVING, SAVING, and FAIRNESS.
- The CARE Act is important unfinished business since the charity crisis continues as a result of increased social needs and lower charitable giving. Patterned after the President's Faith-based Initiative, the CARE Act will spur charitable giving and level the playing field for faith-based organizations who serve the needy.
- Last year more than 1,600 small and large organizations from around the country endorsed the CARE Act and 28 bipartisan senators cosponsored the CARE Act.

What does the CARE Act do?

- Provides 86 million Americans who do not itemize the opportunity to deduct a portion of their charitable contributions- representing more than two-thirds of American taxpayers.
- Provides incentives for individuals to give tax free contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes, which will help a wide range of charities including educational institutions.
- Provides incentives for an estimated \$2 billion worth of food donations from farmers, restaurants, and corporations to help those in need.
- Provides 300,000 low-income working Americans the opportunity to build assets through matched savings accounts, called Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), to purchase a home, expand educational opportunity, or start a small business.
- Provides \$150 million a year for a Compassion Capital Fund to assist small community and faith-based organizations with technical assistance and expand their capacity to serve.
- Provides more than \$1.3 billion of additional funding for the Social Services Block Grant.
- Protects faith-based organizations who wish to compete for government funding to serve the needy if the organizations display religious icons, have religious names, have religious language in chartering documents, or use religious criterion for governing boards.
- Provides incentives for corporate charitable contributions and contributions of books.

What does the CARE Act not do?

- It does not address issues related to the existing civil rights landscape; arguments to the contrary are false. It is a consensus bill designed to get resources to those in need.



“Americans are doing the work of compassion every day -- visiting prisoners, providing shelter for battered women, bringing companionship to lonely seniors. These good works deserve our praise; they deserve our personal support; and when appropriate, they deserve the assistance of the federal government. I urge you to pass both my faith-based initiative and the Citizen Service Act, to encourage acts of compassion that can transform America, one heart and one soul at a time.”

*- President George W. Bush
State of the Union Address
January 28, 2003*

“The CARE Act isn’t a Republican or a Democratic plan. It is a bipartisan proposal that strikes the right balance between harnessing the best forces of faith in our public life without infringing on the First Amendment ... I look forward to working with President Bush to get this proposal signed into law.”

*- Tom Daschle (D-SD), then-Senate Majority
Leader, Op-ed published in the Rapid City
Journal February 15, 2002*
