

THE CARE ACT: HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Fact Sheet

- The CARE Act, the Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2003, S. 272/S.476, 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. Representing part of the President's Faith-based Initiative, The CARE Act will spur charitable giving and assist faith-based organizations who serve the needy.
- More than 1,600 small and large organizations from around the country have endorsed the CARE Act and 23 bipartisan senators are cosponsors.

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, 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.
- 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 in any way. It is a consensus bill designed to get significant resources to those in need.