

# United States Senate

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Christian Myers (202.224.2928)

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## **SANTORUM APPLAUDS COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE**

WASHINGTON – This afternoon the Senate Finance Committee passed the CARE Act. Following the Committee's action, Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), Lead Cosponsor of the bill, made the following remarks:

“First I want to thank the members of the Senate Finance Committee for their diligent work on behalf of the CARE Act, also known as the President's Faith-based Initiative.

While the Committee bill differs slightly from the original compromise introduced by Senator Joe Lieberman and I this past February, the three major goals of the CARE Act – Giving, Saving, and Fairness – remain intact.

Now I am anxious to see the Faith-based Initiative move to the Senate floor, as Senator Daschle promised it would last summer. My hope is that the Senate Majority Leader will bring this bill to the floor of the Senate for a vote before our July 4<sup>th</sup> recess.

The fact that the CARE Act was passed by the Finance Committee with bipartisan backing reflects the broad support that the bill has enjoyed all along. After all, the bill has 25 bipartisan senate cosponsors and has been endorsed by more than 1,600 grassroots and national organizations.

The CARE Act has also been strongly endorsed by both President Bush and Senate Majority Leader Daschle. In fact, President Bush has specifically called on the Senate to pass the CARE Act more than twenty occasions these past few months. I join him in that plea.

I implore the Senate Majority Leader to quickly consider the Faith-based Initiative on the Senate floor, lest this non-controversial and urgently needed legislation succumb to the routine duties of Congress.

The fact is that there is nothing routine about the Faith-based Initiative. With so many local charities hurting after September 11<sup>th</sup> and the ensuing recession, the Faith-based Initiative will provide immediate help to those smaller faith and community-based groups who act as our foot soldiers in the war against hopelessness. To them I say, ‘Help is on the way.’”

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