February 28, 2017

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

We are writing to strongly encourage you to support $30 million in funding for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program, which leverages volunteer support to provide free tax preparation services to millions of low-and-moderate-income working individuals and families in some of the most underserved and hardest-to-reach communities across the country.

VITA trained volunteers become IRS certified tax preparers and provide qualifying individuals and families with free, reliable assistance in filing federal and state tax returns. Throughout tax season, tens of thousands of volunteers – working at sites in every state nationwide – are assisting persons of limited means, those with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency in accurately fulfilling their tax obligations as well as ensuring that workers can keep the full amount of any refund for which they are eligible.

Fundamentally, VITA supports those who cannot afford professional tax services but need assistance to accurately complete their taxes. In 2016, nearly 55,000 IRS-certified tax assistance volunteers prepared 2.1 million returns at 5,000 tax sites across the United States. Free tax assistance resulted in more than $2.2 billion returning to local communities in 2016 – dollars spent to cover child expenses and transportation costs, pay bills, purchase household necessities, as well as to save for the future.

VITA is the model of an effective public private partnership and the program has maximized the existing appropriation.

We encourage you to continue building on the success of VITA for Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations. The current funding level of $15 million represents only a fraction of the costs of operating VITA tax sites nationwide. Though the tax returns are prepared by volunteers, sponsoring community organizations contribute significant resources to recruit and train the volunteers, supervise the
volunteers to ensure accuracy, provide office space and computers for electronic filing, and conduct outreach to community members.

Demand for VITA services also continues to grow – especially as the IRS’s capacity to respond to taxpayer needs has declined. The IRS has determined that while 2.1 million presently access free tax assistance, a total of 19 million would do so if it were readily available.

We, the undersigned organizations, call upon you to provide $30 million in funding for the individuals and families who utilize VITA to accurately file their taxes and grow in their financial stability and success. Given the significant return on investment for this program and the growing demand for quality free tax assistance, we encourage you to prioritize strong funding for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Grant Program in FY2018 Appropriations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Corporation for Enterprise Development
Consumer Action
Credit Builders Alliance
Davenport Consulting
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD)
National Consumer Law Center
National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions
National Network to End Domestic Violence
RESULTS
Self-Help Federal Credit Union
United Way Worldwide

Alaska
Community Financial, Inc.
United Way of Anchorage

Alabama
United Way of East Central Alabama

Arizona
A New Leaf
Center for Economic Integrity
Earn to Learn
Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona, Inc.
Interfaith Community Services
Our Family Services
Pima County Housing Center
The Primavera Foundation, Inc.
United Way of Northern Arizona

Arizona (cont.)
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
Valley of the Sun United Way

Arkansas
Arkansas Community Institute
Asset Development Research Team (University of Arkansas)
United Way of Northeast Arkansas
United Way of the Ouachitas

California
Alameda County Community Asset Network
Antioch First 5
Arrowhead United Way
CAMEO - California Assoc. for Micro Enterprise Opportunity
Coastside Hope - VITA Program
Community Child Care Council (4Cs) of Alameda County
Community Financial Resources
Contra Costa Family Economic Security Partnership
Corona Norco United Way
East Bay Works - Concord
Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa County
Fremont Family Resource Center
HIP Housing
Juma Ventures
Mission Economic Development Agency
Monument First 5 Center
### California (cont.)
- Opportunity Fund
- Orange County United Way
- PACE - Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
- Peninsula Family Service
- Project Read
- Richmond Community Foundation
- Rubicon Programs
- Sacred Heart Community Service
- San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment
- SparkPoint Contra Costa
- United Way Bay Area
- United Way California Capital Region
- United Way Fresno Madera Counties
- United Way Monterey County
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- United Way of Kern County
- United Way of Santa Cruz County
- United Way of Stanislaus County
- United Way of the Desert
- United Way of the Wine Country
- United Ways of California

### Colorado
- Colorado Center on Law and Policy
- Colorado Fiscal Institute
- Denver Asset Building Coalition
- MakeChange NoCo (VITA / TCE Programs)
- Pikes Peak United Way
- United Way of Larimer County

### Connecticut
- Connecticut Association for Human Services
- Connecticut United Ways
- Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.
- Middlesex Coalition for Children

### Delaware
- Nehemiah Gateway CDC

### Florida (Cont.)
- Catalyst Miami
- Children First
- City of Bradenton
- City of Miami Gardens Betty T Ferguson
- City of St. Petersburg
- City of Sweetwater
- Clerk of Circuit Court and County Comptroller
- Community Access Center Inc
- DeSoto / Highlands County Health Department
- Economic Development Corp. of Sarasota County
- Exchange Club Family Partnership Center of Manatee County, Inc.
- Florida Alliance of CDCs
- Four Winds Network Services
- Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries-Manasota
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation
- Gulf Coast Signs of Sarasota, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Inc.
- Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La
- Harvest Tabernacle of Sarasota, Inc
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Manatee Children's Services
- Manatee Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Manatee Community FCU
- Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Inc.
- Myakka City Community Center
- Performance Design Group
- Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida
- PPI Technologies GROUP
- R&L Healthcare Advisors
- Rotary Futures College Resource Center
- Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center
- Sarasota Young Professionals Group
- Senior Friendship Centers, Inc.
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- St. Thomas University School of Law
- Suncoast Technical College
- SWFL Chapter of the American Red Cross
- The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
- Tribridge
- Trident Building Systems
- TSE Industries
- UnidosNow
- United Way of Broward County
- United Way of Florida
- United Way of Miami-Dade
- United Way of Northeast Florida
Florida (Cont.)
United Way of Okaloosa & Walton counties
United Way of Palm Beach County
United Way Pasco
United Way Suncoast
Veethree
Youth Co-Op, Inc.

Georgia
Cooperative Customer Communications
GADVBE-Georgia Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Urban Asset Builders

Hawaii
Aloha United Way
Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC)
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii
Feeding Hawaii Together Org
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development
Hawaii Book & Music Festival
Hawaii Federal Credit Union
Hawaii HomeOwnership Center
Hawaii International Child, Inc.
Hawaii Performing Arts Co. dba Manoa Valley Theatre
Hawaii VITA & Financial Empowerment
Hawaiian Community Assets
Ho`ola Na Pua
HUGS For Hawaii’s Seriously Ill Children and Their Families
Lanakila Pacific
Madd Hawaii
Ohana Komputer
the early school
The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.
Waialua Federal Credit Union
YWCA Oahu

Idaho
United Way of South Central Idaho
United Way of Treasure Valley

Illinois (cont.)
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Holberg Finacnial
Illinois Asset Building Group
Ladder Up
Northwest Side Housing Center
Project IRENE
United Way of Central Illinois
United Way of Champaign County
United Way of Illinois
United Way of Lee County
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
United Way of Rock River Valley
United Way of the Quad Cities Area
Warren County United Way
Woodstock Institute

Indiana
Indiana Association of United Ways
Jackson County United Way
United Way of Central Indiana
United Way of Knox County
United Way of Monroe County

Iowa
cosasap
Hawkins & Hawkins Consulting LLC
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Iowa Saves
South Central Iowa Federation of Labor
United Way of Central Iowa
United Way of East Central Iowa
United Ways of Iowa

Kansas
Hutchinson Community Foundation
Labette County Emergency Assistance Center
Manahattan Area HFH
Peace Connections
United Way of Greater Topeka
United Way of McPherson County
United Way of the Flint Hills
United Way of the Plains
United Way of Wyandotte

Kentucky
Anderson County Adult Learning Center
Jewish Family & Career Services of Louisville
Louisville Asset Building Coalition
Mayfield-Graves County United Way
Kentucky (cont.)
Metro United Way
Nicholasville Tourism. Jessamine Safehouse inc
The Center for Great Neighborhoods
The Hamilton-Ryker Group
The Hockensmith Agency, Inc.
United Way Bourbon County
United Way of Central Kentucky
United Way of Franklin County
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Kentucky
United Way of Mason County
United Way of Murray Calloway County
United Way of Southern Kentucky
United Way of the Bluegrass

Louisiana
Capital Area United Way
Church for the Highlands
Highland Center Ministries
Louisiana Association of United Ways
United Way of Acadiana
United Way of Central Louisiana
United Way of Northwest Louisiana
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
VITA Loyola University New Orleans College of Law

Maine
CA$H Maine
LifeStyles of Maryland
New Ventures Maine
United Way of Androscoggin County
United Way of Eastern Maine
United Way of Greater Portland
United Way of Mid Coast Maine
United Way of Mid-Maine
United Way of Oxford County
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area
United Way of York County

Maryland
Baltimore CASH Campaign
CASA
Delmarva Community Services, Inc.
GVE Media/PR
MakingChange, Inc.
Maryland CASH Campaign
Montgomery County Maryland Community Action Board
SHORE UP! Inc.

Maryland (cont.)
Tzu Chi Foundation
United Way of Charles County
United Way of Frederick County

Massachusetts
Berkshire United Way
Compass Working Capital
JVS Boston
Lawrence Community Works
United Way of Central Massachusetts
United Way of North Central
United Way of Pioneer Valley
Valley Community Development Corp.

Michigan
Asset Independence Coalition
Capital Area United Way
Global Aid Accounting Society
Ionia County Intermediate School District
Michigan Association of United Ways
Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency
Old National Bank
Twin Rivers Elementary School
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way Montcalm-Ionia Counties
United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula
United Way of Washtenaw County

Minnesota
American Indian Community Development Corporation.
Community Action Duluth
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Head of the Lakes United Way
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership
Midwest Minnesota CDC
Minnesota Asset Building Coalition
Minnesota State, Mankato
Neighborhood Development Alliance
Prepare + Prosper
Tri-County Action Program
United Ways of Minnesota
WCMCA

Missouri
East Missouri Action Agency, Inc.

Nevada
Opportunity Alliance Nevada
United Way of Southern Nevada
New Hampshire
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Southern NH Services Inc.

New Jersey
Bergen County’s United Way
Divine Purpose Community Services Inc
United Way of Central Jersey
United Way of Essex and West Hudson
United Way of Gloucester County
United Way of Gr. Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey
United Way of Greater Mercer County
United Way of Greater Union County
United Way of Hunterdon County
United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
United Way of Northern New Jersey
United Way of Passaic County

New Mexico
United Way of Central New Mexico

New York
Chenango United Way
Circles of Mercy
CA$H Coalition-Greater Capital Region
CSEA/AFSCME Local 1000
Empire Justice Center
Hoosick Area Church Association
Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, Inc.
Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners
RCIL
Start Small Think Big
STCASH c/o Steuben Churchpeople Against Poverty
The Financial Clinic
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
United Way of Cayuga County
United Way of Central New York
United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties
United Way of Greater Rochester
United Way of Livingston & Wyoming Counties
United Way of New York State
United Way of Northern Chautauqua County
United Way of Ontario County
United Way of Rockland County
United Way of Rome NY & Western Oneida County
United Way of the Greater Capital Region

New York (cont.)
United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, Inc.
United Way of Tompkins County
United Way of Westchester & Putnam Urban Upbound
UWGR

North Carolina
Community link
IDA and Asset Building Collaborative of NC
North Carolina Assets Alliance
United Way Greater High Point
United Way of North Carolina

North Dakota
ND Economic Security & Prosperity Alliance

Ohio
American Red Cross Cincinnati Chapter
ASIA, INC.
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Cuyahoga EITC Coalition led by Enterprise Community Partners
Hacienda CDC
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland
Ohio United Way
The Potter’s House Ministries, Inc.
United Way of Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way of Greater Stark Co
United Way of Hancock County
United Way of Summit County

Oklahoma
Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation
Oklahoma Policy Institute

Oregon
Bienestar, Inc.
Bradley Angle
CASA of Oregon
CASH Oregon
Catholic Charities Oregon
City of Salem Housing Authority
Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.
Corban University
Innovative Changes
Oregon (cont.)
Kathy Lawrence Construction Clean
McMinnville
Mercy Corps Northwest
MERIT
Metropolitan Family Service
Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon
Mid-Columbia Housing Authority
Mt. Hood Community College
Neighborhood Partnerships
Northwest Family Services
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Oregon Housing Authority
ONABEN
Open Door HousingWorks
Proud Ground
Self Enhancement, Inc.
United Way of Columbia County
United Way of Deschutes County
Warm Springs Community Action Team

Pennsylvania (cont.)
United Way of Chester County
United Way of Columbia County
United Way of Erie County
United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties
United Way of Lancaster County
United Way of Lebanon County
United Way of Monroe County
United Way of Pennsylvania
United Way of Southwestern PA
United Way of the Capital Region
United Way of the Titusville Region
United Way of Wyoming Valley
United Way of York County, PA
West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution
Women's Opportunities Resource Center
YMCA of Centre County

South Carolina
United Way Association of South Carolina
United Way of Aiken County
United Way of Anderson County
United Way of Greenville County
United Way of the Midlands

Tennessee
New Level Community Development Corp.
United Way of Greater Knoxville
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
VITA Lenoir City

Texas
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
Articulate Labs
Capital IDEA Houston
Center for Transforming Lives
Chinese Community Center
Crisis Assistance Center
Greater Longview United Way
Houston Area Urban League
Houston Habitat for Humanity
Midland College
Midland Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center
Northwest Assistance Ministries
RAISE Texas
Sheppard AFB VITA Volunteer
Texas A&M International University
The Women's Resource of Greater Houston
United Way of Brazoria County
Texas (cont.)
United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County
United Way of Greater Houston
United Way of Midland, Inc.
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County
United Way of South Texas
United Way of Southern Cameron County
United Way of Tarrant County
United Way of the Coastal Bend

Utah
United Way of Salt Lake

Vermont
BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont
Capstone Community Action
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
United Way of Addison County

Virginia
Rappahannock United Way
Rooftop of Virginia CAP
United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
Virginia Community Action Partnership

Washington
Spokane County United Way
United Way of King County
United Way of Pierce County
United Way of Skagit County
United Ways of the Pacific Northwest

Wisconsin
United Way Fox Cities
United Way of Dunn County
United Way of Racine County
United Way of Wisconsin