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**Foundations to Congress: Supporting Philanthropy Benefits Local Communities**

*[INSERT ORGANIZATION] Joins Philanthropy Week in Washington to Educate Lawmakers*

*About the Sector’s Social and Economic Impact*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME AND HYPERLINK HERE] joined over 150 philanthropic leaders representing communities throughout America for Philanthropy Week in Washington. Hosted by the Council on Foundations from March 3-7th, this week of events provides philanthropic leaders an opportunity to speak with elected officials and highlight the benefits foundations offer their community.

“Recent efforts to roll back charitable giving have made it all the more important that philanthropy stands united and shows the important role we play in American life,” said Vikki Spruill, President and CEO of the Council on Foundations. “Foundations are coming together to show that we want to work with Congress to ensure a clear understanding of the vital role philanthropy plays in building a strong, resilient economy and thriving communities.”

While Philanthropy Week participants shared their stories with elected officials, federal tax policy was a major concern. House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp’s recent tax reform proposal and the Administration’s proposed budget will have significant impacts on the philanthropic sector. Some of the proposed reforms could enhance the work of foundations and grantees in some ways, but other modifications that reduce giving incentives would result in harmful effects on the communities that foundations serve.

“The challenges of today require a constant source of innovative ideas and creative solutions. Philanthropy’s has continuously filled this role,” said [INSERT NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION]. “If lawmakers chip away at incentives that encourage giving, some of our most vulnerable communities would unfortunately pay a profound price.”

Philanthropy Week coincides with the 2014 launch of the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus, which will host two Hill briefings on March 4th and 6th. Under the bipartisan leadership of Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Richard Burr (R-NC) and Congressmen John Lewis (D-GA-5) and Patrick Tiberi (R-OH-12), the Caucus will provide a platform for Members to gain insight into how tax policy, budgets, and legislative decisions affect foundations and the nonprofit organizations they support.

For more information on Philanthropy Week in Washington, please contact:

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