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March 17, 2009

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

On behalf of over 40 million members, AARP writes in support of an amendment to incorporate the Volunteer Generation Fund in H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act (G.I.V.E. Act), and to support enactment of H.R. 1388 with the inclusion of the Volunteer Generation Fund.

AARP was founded by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus on the principle of service. Today, more than 9 million people give back through AARP - helping people find work, get tax refunds, stay healthy, access benefits, and advocate on issues important to their families. With a long service history, AARP is keenly aware that many potential volunteers are frustrated by a lack of capacity and infrastructure to make the best of the skills and experiences that they can contribute. The Volunteer Generations Fund would strengthen the volunteer infrastructure of community service organizations, by awarding grants to nonprofits and states to:

- recruit, manage, and support volunteers;
- develop strong volunteer infrastructure organizations particularly in areas in need of this resource;
- address both national and state priorities such as health care, the environment, education or disaster response; and,
- provide technical assistance to local volunteer infrastructure organizations.

AARP supports enactment of the GIVE Act with the inclusion of the Volunteer Generation Fund. This legislation will strengthen and expand civic engagement and volunteer opportunities at a time when many communities are in great need. If you have questions, please contact me or Larry White in our Government Relations and Advocacy unit at (202) 434-3813 or via e-mail at [lwhite@aarp.org](mailto:lwhite@aarp.org).

Sincerely,

David P. Sloane  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations and Advocacy