

News Alert

Rensselaer County Legislature Office of the Minority 270-2892

September 11, 2008

“GIVE Act” Gets Support from Democratic Legislators

Troy—Legislator Flora Fasoldt introduced a resolution at the September 10 meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature urging the passage of the “GIVE Act” (Giving Incentives to Volunteers Act of 2008). The resolution passed unanimously and certified copies will be sent to Senators Clinton and Schumer, Congresswoman Gillibrand, and Congressman McNulty. “I was pleased to sponsor this resolution and will continue to support the important work of volunteers in our communities in any way I can,” said Fasoldt.

The legislation addresses the adverse impacts high gas prices and existing tax laws have on volunteers serving in their communities and in charitable organizations. Currently the mileage allowance for volunteers is only 14 cents compared with the 58.5 cents per mile for businesses. The “GIVE Act” calls for establishing a rate for volunteer mileage at 70% of the business allowance which would raise it to almost 41 cents at the present time. In addition, the bill provides for the exclusion of mileage reimbursements from taxable income.

The “GIVE Act” was introduced in recognition of the vital role volunteers play in our communities and the nonprofit sector. Joan Fuess, a board member of the Sand Lake Center for the Arts and Circle Theatre Players and a proponent of the legislation, commented, “Volunteers are the backbone of the community, serving on boards and committees and enriching our environment. This legislation gives back to all volunteers in all organizations for their time and efforts, a small acknowledgment for their dedication.”

Fiscal shortfalls and a struggling economy have led to increased demands for the charitable services and community support provided by volunteers. “I’ve worked side by side with volunteers over the years and know that volunteer work is its own reward. At the same time, I recognize the importance of removing any disincentives to volunteering, especially at a time when it’s so important to strengthening our communities,” said Legislator Peter Grimm.

To contact your elected officials in Congress to urge support of the “GIVE Act” visit the National Council of Nonprofit Associations website at: www.ncna.org.