

December 12, 2017

Dear House and Senate Conferees,

On behalf of the March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, I am writing to share our significant concerns that the tax reform package currently in conference committee could do irreparable damage to our nation's vibrant nonprofit sector.

As a nonprofit organization about to celebrate its 80th anniversary, the March of Dimes has relied heavily on small dollar contributions throughout our history to advance our mission of improving maternal and child health. Our ability to fund millions of dollars in biomedical research, develop innovative programming, and support over 800 jobs nationwide depends heavily on the generosity of the donors who give to us through our annual fundraising walks, dinners, and other events. In 2016, 1.5 million individuals donated to the March of Dimes. We are concerned, that because of the increase in the standard deduction, these individuals would lose a significant incentive to give to any organization, including ours. These donations make up a substantial percentage of our revenue, and are the driving force behind our ability to combat preterm birth, birth defects and infant mortality.

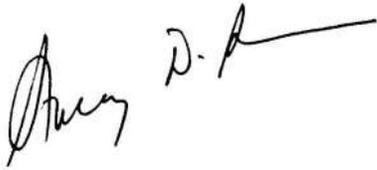
The legislation passed by both the Senate and the House would approximately double the standard deduction for both married and single taxpayers. While we appreciate the desire to simplify the tax code, the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that this change in the standard deduction would result in a reduction of itemized deductions of \$95 billion and cause charitable giving to drop by \$13 billion or more each year. For the March of Dimes and many other organizations like ours, a reduction in charitable giving of this magnitude could have catastrophic consequences.

The March of Dimes is especially concerned that this tax policy change is being considered at the same time that other policies are making our mission both more critical and more difficult. Cuts have been proposed to numerous federal programs that support maternal and child health, and regulatory changes are under way that will reduce access to care for women of childbearing age, children and families. Meanwhile, preterm birth rates increased in 2016 for the second consecutive year, while maternal mortality rates are unacceptably high and rising. It is perplexing to us that Congress is considering policies that will undercut the nonprofit sector while expecting organizations like ours to do more of the traditional work of government.

The March of Dimes urges you in the strongest possible terms to ensure that the final tax reform package preserves the deduction for all charitable giving and bolsters, rather than damages, the

work and viability of nonprofit organizations. For more information, please contact Jaimie Vickery, Director of Federal Affairs, at jvickery@marchofdimes.org or 202-292-2752.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey D. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stacey D. Stewart

President