



Protecting America's Strong Tradition of Giving

June 17, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Document on Tax-Exempt Organizations and Charitable Giving

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch:

The latest tax reform options paper on Tax-Exempt Organizations and Charitable Giving demonstrates the thoughtful consideration that members of the Senate Finance Committee are giving to the potential impacts of changes or limits to the charitable deduction. As lawmakers debate comprehensive tax reform, we appreciate the tough decisions you face in addressing our nation's fiscal challenges, strengthening our tax system and helping restore our economy.

As a Coalition of more than 60 diverse nonprofits, foundations and other charitable organizations, we are grateful for the opportunity to inform your deliberations. We are encouraged that members of Congress understand the unique role and value of charitable giving in our communities. We are also committed to working with you to ensure there is a clear understanding of how some of the options outlined in this paper might impact charitable giving and potentially hurt those most in need.

As you know, the century-old charitable tax deduction is a powerful American tradition that encourages people to donate a portion of their income - often more than they would have otherwise given - to support others in need and to strengthen communities. If Congress changes the existing policy in a way that restricts this long-standing charitable giving incentive, donations will go down and the communities we serve and the individuals we help would suffer the most - not the donors.

As the Finance Committee contemplates tax reform we urge you to protect the charitable tax deduction. We look forward to continuing our work with you, your committee colleagues, and the entire Congress to identify the best ways to preserve the unique nature of the charitable deduction and our communities that depend on it.

Sincerely,

Association of Fundraising Professionals, Chair

AJC
Alliance for Charitable Reform
Alliance for Children and Families
American Alliance of Museums
American Red Cross
Association for Healthcare Philanthropy
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel
Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Nonprofit Mailers
Council for American Private Education
Council on Foundations
Dance USA
Direct Marketing Association
Direct Marketing Association Nonprofit Federation
Dunham+Company
ECFA
Educational Media Foundation
The Field Museum
Fraternal Government Relations Coalition
Girl Scouts of the USA
The Giving Institute
Giving USA Foundation
Jewish Federations of North America
Leadership 18
League of American Orchestras
National Association of Independent Schools
The National Catholic Development Conference
National Catholic Educational Association
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council of Nonprofits
National Panhellenic Conference
North American Interfraternity Conference
OPERA America
Partnership for Philanthropic Planning
Philanthropy Ohio
The Philanthropy Roundtable
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Theatre Communications Group
United Neighborhood Centers of America
United Way Worldwide
Volunteers of America