

May 26, 2009

The Committee On Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Committee Members:

As a coalition representing a broad cross-section of operating charities across the country, we strongly urge you to oppose the proposal from the President that would impose new limits on charitable tax deductions to offset the cost of health care reforms.

The proposal, originally included in the President's budget, would limit the federal tax charitable deduction to 28 percent for those who earn more than \$250,000. Currently, they may claim up to a 35 percent charitable deduction.

Health care reform is something we all want to see, but stifling a vital sector whose sole purpose is helping those in need is not an appropriate method of financing those reforms. In fact, harming America's charities could, in fact, actually undermine health care reforms, particularly in the area of uncompensated care.

In light of these challenging economic times, now is not the time for Congress to be providing disincentives to giving. Congress should be doing all that it can to promote giving.

Our members are already finding it difficult to raise the necessary funds to provide essential services. If this proposal were to pass, we fear it will cause irreparable damage to the charitable community. As you likely have heard numerous times, Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy recently estimated that the President's budget proposal to limit deductions and raise rates, if applied in 2006, would have reduced giving by nearly \$4 billion.

On behalf of our memberships ranging from large national charities to small local charities, we strongly urge you to oppose any proposal that would impose limits on charitable tax deductions.

If you, or your staff, have any questions, our organizations are ready to assist. Please contact us at anytime.

Sincerely,



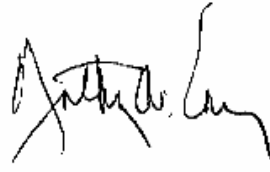
John H. Graham IV, CAE
President and CEO
American Society of Association
Executives



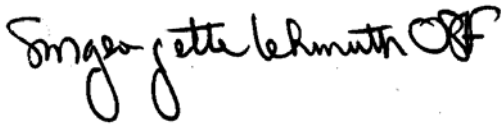
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Christopher M. Quinn
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DMA Nonprofit Federation



Anthony W. Conway
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Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers



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