



*Protecting America's Strong Tradition of Giving*

April 29, 2013

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Sensenbrenner and Matheson:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting charitable giving in America and your recognition of the vital role and impact of the charitable sector. At a time when people and communities are struggling to do more with less, we need to find more ways to encourage giving, not dissuade it.

The *Preserve the Charitable Contribution Deduction Act* that you recently introduced is an important step in the right direction and sends an important message that the charitable deduction should not be limited as a consequence of tax reform. We welcome the strong support you and House co-sponsors have shown at a time when charitable giving incentives are threatened like never before.

Although we do not yet know the full impact of the Pease limitation on charitable donations, we have already seen a reaction by donors particularly in the timing of gifts on which charities rely. In 2003, approximately 60,000 taxpayers with nearly \$890 million in charitable deductions had more than half of their itemized deductions disallowed through the Pease provision. We simply cannot afford to experiment further with vital incentives designed to encourage charitable giving.

The Coalition's diverse membership of more than 60 nonprofits, foundations and other charitable organizations is united more than ever in an effort to protect the charitable deduction. While significant decisions must be made to address our fiscal challenges, tampering with the 100-year-old charitable deduction is not a viable solution.

Moving forward, we are committed to working with you and other federal lawmakers to identify the best ways to preserve the charitable deduction and the important community efforts it supports.

Sincerely,

Association of Fundraising Professionals, Chair  
Agudath Israel of America  
Alliance for Charitable Reform  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers  
American Alliance of Museums  
American Institute for Cancer Research  
American Red Cross  
Association of Art Museum Directors  
Association of Christian Schools International  
Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel  
Association for Healthcare Philanthropy  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for American Private Education  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council on Foundations  
Dance/USA  
Direct Marketing Association Nonprofit Federation  
Dunham+Company  
Educational Media Foundation  
The Field Museum  
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Leadership 18  
League of American Orchestras  
National Association of Independent Schools  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
OPERA America  
The Philanthropy Roundtable  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
Saint Louis Art Museum  
Theatre Communications Group  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Neighborhood Centers of America  
United Way Worldwide  
Volunteers of America