

Letter from Kansas Charitable Nonprofits

May 31, 2013

RE: Charitable Donation Tax Deductions

Dear Legislator:

The undersigned charitable nonprofits are deeply concerned that tax reform legislation coming out of the conference committee could undermine the incentive for Kansans to give back to their communities through the work of charities in our State. We urge you to ensure that charitable giving incentives are not subject to a “haircut” or other limitation, and that the current tax deduction remains in effect.

Our organizations, and thousands of charities throughout Kansas, work *every day* to address the needs in our communities – to feed, house, and clothe individuals in need; to promote economic and social wellbeing; and to solve problems that we are best suited to address. To perform this vital work, charitable nonprofits rely on the support of our fellow Kansans through their donations of time, money, and property. Kansans are by nature generous, and the giving incentives in current tax law encourage them to give more than they otherwise would to address local needs. Indeed, where states have experimented with limiting tax incentives for giving – such as in Hawaii and Michigan recently – data show that donations to charitable works drop off immediately and significantly.

Often, where the government stops is where nonprofits have always stepped in. However, tax reform legislation under consideration asks nonprofits to shoulder dramatically increased responsibilities in Kansas communities at the same time it could decrease the ability of charities to do so by limiting the charitable giving incentive.

We ask that you prevent Kansas from making the same mistake that other states have made – that is, reducing incentives for giving while assuming that charities will remain able to pick up the slack in our communities. The experiments in other states have failed, and the people served by charitable nonprofits have suffered as a result. We ask that you preserve the charitable deduction as currently written, for the sake of our fellow citizens, for our communities, and for our future.

Sincerely,

**Bethesda Lutheran Communities
Emporia Child Care
Family Crisis Services, Inc.
Harvesters-The Community Food Network
Harvey County DV/SA Task Force, Inc
Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc.
Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City
Kansas Children’s Service League
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and
Domestic Violence
Kansas Food Bank
KidsTLC, Inc.
Meals on Wheels Association of Kansas
Mid America Nutrition Program**

**Plumb Place
SAFEHOME
Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center
United Way of the Flint Hills
United Way of Greater Topeka
YMCA Kansas State Alliance
Youthville**