

## Quotes from Nonprofit Leaders

- “A federal proposal to limit the charitable deduction for certain Americans as a means to reduce the federal budget deficit is shortsighted. -- **Steve Gunderson**, *chief executive of the Council on Foundations* ([Gazette Extra](#), 5/12/11)
- “Doing anything to disincentivize giving is not a good thing. Especially when needs are high, the government isn't contributing and the economy hasn't recovered entirely.” -- **Diana Aviv**, *president, Independent Sector* ([Investment News](#), 4/14/11)
- “Politicians and policymakers should be doing everything they can to support the nonprofit community and its impact on our economy. That means protecting the charitable tax deduction, so we can continue to invest in programs that create jobs, move people into the workforce and out of poverty, and lay the groundwork for future financial security.” -- **Holly Welch Stubbing**, *senior vice president at Foundation for the Carolinas*, and **Bobbi Hapgood**, *executive director at N.C. Network of Grantmakers* ([Charlotte Observer](#), 7/15/11)
- “[Capping itemized deductions] would reduce the incentive for people to give at a time when Congress should be considering ways to increase charitable donations rather than decrease them.” -- **Neal Denton**, *senior vice president, American Red Cross* ([The Hill](#), 3/27/11)
- “The president thus will inhibit giving by making it less attractive to give. And this will impose pain on the recipients.” **Fay Vincent**, *CEO of Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. and a former commissioner of Major League Baseball* ([Wall Street Journal](#), 9/15/11)
- “We worry a lot [about the deduction proposal] because the amount of government funding is so small. When you start tampering with deductibility, it can become the proverbial slippery slope. The cumulative effect could be devastating.” -- **Ford Bell**, *president and chief executive, American Association of Museums* ([Washington Post](#), 9/19/11)
- “Limiting the itemized deduction would certainly lead to a significant decrease in charitable contributions. If charities have less resources, they'll be forced to choose between laying off employees or cutting needed services. Nonprofits employ almost 10 percent of the work force nationwide, and in many states nonprofits are the largest employers. In our view, cutting the deduction is like cutting your nose to spite your face.” -- **William C. Daroff**, *vice president for Public Policy, Jewish Federations of North America* ([Chronicle of Philanthropy](#), 9/12/11)
- “..the charitable deduction is not only fair but also an efficient way for the government to spur investment in communities.” -- **Nancy E. Jones**, *president and CEO, Community Foundation of North Texas*; **Tim McKinney**, *president and CEO, United Way of Tarrant County* ([Star Telegram](#), 7/25/11)
- “This goes to the core of who we are as a nation. We have a long tradition of charitable giving, of taking care of our own groups, and this deduction is an embodiment of that spirit.” -- **Steve Taylor**, *president, United Way Worldwide* ([Newsmax](#), 3/28/11)
- “Critics of the charitable deduction understand government, not individuals acting freely, as the better philanthropist. The war on the charitable deduction is about dismantling America's tradition of voluntary charitable action and philanthropic freedom in favor of a government-run

system..." -- **Jeff Cain**, *president, Arthur N. Rupe Foundation and secretary, Lillian S. Wells Foundation* ([Philanthropy Daily](#), 1/7/11)

- "President Obama's proposed tax plan would weaken the role of the local, the personal, and the voluntary. It would penalize those who can give the most, shift dollars from citizens and local private charities to distant government bureaucracies, and prioritize mandatory taxation over voluntary tithing and charitable giving." -- **Ryan Messmore**, *William E. Simon Fellow in Religion and a Free Society in the Richard and Helen DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society, The Heritage Foundation* ([Heritage Foundation](#), 4/10/09)
- "If there's an ounce of humanitarian blood in people, you would want to find greater ways to get money to nonprofit institutions to fill those gaps, and if you can do it in a way that generates jobs, it's a win-win." **Norman Ornstein**, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute ([Huffington Post](#))
- "Government might see changes in charitable tax exemptions as a small pot of gold at the end of the nonprofit rainbow, but it is equally possible is that this could also unintentionally be the first step toward ending America's longstanding tradition of encouraging private organizations to serve the public good." -- **Peter Goldberg**, *formerly chief executive, Families International* ([Chronicle of Philanthropy](#), 8/15/11)

## Quotes from Elected Officials

- **Representative Sander Levin (D-MI), Ranking Member of House Ways and Means Committee** "In the case of the charitable deduction, one has to keep in mind that the recipients of the contributions include universities, hospitals, churches and soup kitchens that provide critical services to working families" ([Speech on tax reform](#))
- **House Ways And Means Chairman Charlie Rangel (D-NY)**: "I would never want to adversely affect anything that is charitable or good," (*Stephen Ohlemacher, "Obama's Plan To Hike Taxes Meets Fierce Opposition," The Associated Press, 3/3/09*)
- **Representative Shelley Berkley (D-NV)**: "I'd like to think that people give out of the goodness of their hearts, but that tax deduction helps to loosen up their heartstrings." Outside the hearing, Berkley said the proposed tax increase was 'the number one issue' on the minds of her constituents over the weekend. Reminded that the provision is intended to raise hundreds of billions of dollars to finance an expansion of health insurance coverage, Obama's top domestic priority, she said: 'We can find another way.'" (*Lori Montgomery, "Obama Officials Defend Budget," The Washington Post, 3/4/09*)
- **Majority Leader Cantor (R-VA)**: "It Doesn't Make Sense To Impose Taxes On Charitable Contributions When The Charities Are The Ones Out There Helping People. We have also found out through looking at his tax proposals, or at least the reports, that his tax proposals are going to impose taxes on charitable contributions and in fact impact at least 40 percent of tax deductible charitable contributions. I don't think there are many Americans right now who think that's a good idea. The question is why would we want to put an impediment in the way of the charities accessing funding when the charities are the ones out there helping the people in need right now? It doesn't make sense." (*Remarks At The American Action Forum, 9/13/11*)
- **Representative Erik Paulson (R-MN)**: "Ultimately, as our country continues to move forward and fight through this recession, it should be the job of Congress to encourage and inspire charitable giving." ([DMA](#))