TEMPLATE NEWS RELEASE

**[INSERT ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD]**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: [NAME]
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**TAMPERING WITH CHARITABLE TAX DEDUCTION**

**WILL SET OFF CASCADE OF CONSEQUENCES FOR AMERICA’S COMMUNIITES**

*Charitable Sector Warns of “Dangerous Game of Jenga”*

*As Lawmakers Tackle Tax Reform, Budget Deficit*

[INSERT DATELINE] – [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] joined hundreds of nonprofit leaders from across the country to warn Congress of the cascading economic and social consequences of any limits to the charitable tax deduction. The warning comes as federal lawmakers consider reducing the federal budget deficit and a range of tax reforms designed to grow the economy.

The [Charitable Giving Coalition](http://www.protectgiving.org), a group of more than 60 nonprofits, foundations and charitable organizations, called proposals to the limit the charitable deduction “a dangerous game of Jenga” that would devastate the nonprofit sector millions rely on for jobs, support and services.

“To keep pace with a growing demand for vital community services, Congress should be encouraging *more* charitable giving, not less,” said [INSERT NAME, TITLE OF ORGANIZATION SPOKESPERSON]. “Under proposed changes, the nonprofit sector, which employs one out of ten Americans and generates more than $1 trillion every year for important human services, would suffer a loss of billions of dollars in donations used to aid the most vulnerable, educate, heal, nurture and innovate–often in ways that government and the private sector cannot.”

[INSERT ORGANIZATION] and the Coalition are meeting November 20 in Washington, D.C. with dozens of individual lawmakers and their staff to educate them about the lifeline charitable giving represents.

According to a new report issued by [Giving USA](http://protectgiving.org/report/giving-usa-2013/), those who itemized their charitable contributions represent 81 percent of the total estimate (nearly $229 billion) of giving by individuals in 2012. Estimates show that for every dollar subject to the deduction, the public typically receives $3 of benefit. It’s unlikely government could find a more effective way to leverage private investment in community services.

[INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLE/DATA REGARDING IMPACT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION/NONPROFITS IN SERVING COMMUNITY NEEDS – TYPES OF SERVICES/ISSUES ADDRESSED, NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED. IF THERE IS NO DATA AVAILABLE, CONSIDER INCLUDING ONE OR MORE EXAMPLES FROM THE CHARITABLE GIVING DATA DOCUMENT ON THE [PROTECTGIVING.ORG](http://protectgiving.org/take-action/templated-docs/) WEBSITE.]

[INSERT LOCAL DATA IF AVAILABLE OR CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE] Michigan is already seeing how changes in tax policy can hurt charitable giving and vital nonprofit services. Earlier this year, the state enacted a set of new tax laws, including the removal of a tax credit for charitable contributions. Donations to many nonprofits are down significantly. According to the Council of Michigan Foundations, donations are down 28 percent overall for community foundations across the state and the decline is expected to be worse in the wake of the new law.

Americans support the charitable deduction because it works. According to a United Way Worldwide survey, nearly 80 percent of Americans believe reducing or eliminating the charitable tax deduction would have a negative impact on charities and the people they serve. Of those who indicate they would reduce charitable giving, the majority (62 percent) would have to decrease their contributions by 25 percent or more. Two out of every three Americans (67 percent) are opposed to reducing the charitable tax deduction.

As the tax reform debate continues, [INSERT ORGANIZATION] plans to be active in making sure lawmakers understand what is at stake for communities and charitable giving, including a new [Protect Giving YoutTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiPFeiT3J_5KSa8GfNc90RA/feed?view_as=public) and a [petition drive](http://www.change.org/petitions/president-obama-and-members-of-congress-protect-the-charitable-tax-deduction). Charity and foundation leaders are also sharing with lawmakers an [infographic](http://protectgiving.org/resources/infographic/) illustrating the ripple effects of the charitable sector at work in communities every day.

“Given the tremendous needs in our communities, we simply can’t afford to weaken a 100-year-old American tradition that encourages giving,” said [INSERT NAME, TITLE OF ORGANIZATION SPOKESPERSON]. “We are committed to working with elected officials to identify the best ways to protect the unique value of the charitable deduction.”

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*[INSERT ORGANIZATION BOILERPLATE]*

***The Charitable Giving Coalition****Representing private and community foundations, their grantees and independent charities, the Charitable Giving Coalition’s members include United Way Worldwide, the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities USA, the American Council on Education, Jewish Federations of North America, the American Institute for Cancer Research, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Independent Sector, the Council on Foundations, and The Philanthropy Roundtable, among others. Formed in 2009, the coalition is a broad cross-section of nonprofit organizations across the country, including both the nonprofit organizations themselves and the associations and umbrella groups that serve their needs. The coalition is dedicated to preserving the charitable giving incentive that ensures that our nation's charities receive the funds necessary to fulfill their essential philanthropic missions. The coalition provides a unique and unified voice on Capitol Hill on issues affecting the charitable deduction, a voice composed of both direct lobbying and robust grassroots advocacy.* [*www.protectgiving.org*](http://www.protectgiving.org)*,* [*#protectgiving*](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23protectgiving)*,* [*@protectgiving*](http://twitter.com/protectgiving)