



May 15, 2012

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany Jr., M.D.
U.S. Representative, Louisiana's 7th Congressional District
1431 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-1807

Dear Representative Boustany,

I write today to commend you for your efforts to protect donors and to ensure that Americans' charitable dollars reach the recipients that need them the most. Charity Navigator, America's best-known donor advocate, has long called for more oversight of the philanthropic sector and as such would be delighted to support your committee's efforts.

As you may know, Charity Navigator, www.charitynavigator.org, is the most relied upon charity rating service in the country, if not the world. With over 3 million users and roughly 5 million visits to our site last year alone, our service is estimated to impact roughly \$10 billion in donations annually. We have an unparalleled position as the leader in providing free, easy to access, and readily understandable information that helps donors in making their charitable giving/social investment decisions. Not content to rest on our success, we are developing a more robust and comprehensive approach to evaluating charities. This new rating tool, termed CN 3.0, incorporates several important elements beyond the financial ratios that make up the core of the current rating system. Specifically, CN 3.0 is a three-dimensional charity rating system that evaluates each charity based on its (1) financial health, (2) accountability & transparency and (3) results reporting.

I recently learned of about your May 16 hearing on Tax Exempt Organizations and that it will be the first in a series of hearings on this topic. I respectfully submit that the success of your hearings would be enhanced with the participation of Charity Navigator. As a charity rater and donor advocate, we provide a unique viewpoint. So, if we can be of any assistance in your efforts to bring additional accountability and transparency to charitable sector, whether it is by providing testimony at one of the hearings, by providing you with expert analysis and data about the charitable sector, or by simply serving as an unbiased sounding board for your ideas, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at kberger@charitynavigator.org or 201-818-1288.

Again, I thank you for your commitment to protecting the most generous people in the world, the American charitable givers. I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger
President & CEO

Charity Navigator is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code and does not accept any contributions from any charities we evaluate.