

February 25, 2013

RE: Hearing on Charitable Deductions

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing on because I am deeply concerned at the possibility that Charitable Deductions could be taken away as a tax deduction. On behalf of the thousands of uninsured individuals who utilize the Community Health Clinic as their medical home.

I am the Executive Director for a private non-profit 501(c)(3), The Community Health Clinic of Joplin (Community Clinic). The Clinic is located in Joplin Missouri, serving an eight (8) county area, providing medical and dental care to the uninsured for the last 20 years. The Community Clinic provides these services ***without any State or Federal assistance, or insurance monies for services rendered.*** The Community Clinic relies completely on grants and donations. The Community Clinic is not a Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHC) or a look-a-like FQHC.

In 2011 the Community Clinic provided 10,512 visits to the uninsured, and 2012 over 9,500 visits. During any number of visits our patients receive not only medical and dental care, they leave with medicines in their hands! The people that the Community Clinic serves would typically go without healthcare, or end up in the emergency department as a charity case. This clinic saves lives without government intervention or funding.

So, as you can see, eliminating the Charitable Contribution or even reducing the amount that can be taken as a deduction would, in my opinion would be devastating and cripple our ability to raise the needed donations to run the Community Clinic. I urge you to vote against this measure as it will affect thousands of uninsured individuals in Southwest Missouri.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter. I would be happy to visit with you, or any member of the committee regarding any questions you may have, or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

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