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Title of Hearing: **Hearing on Tax Reform and Charitable Contributions**

As a result of the recent economic climate, both in state and federal government, nonprofit organizations have been put in the unique position of having to provide increased services for citizens while receiving less governmental funding. Unfortunately, just because government funding is reduced, it doesn't mean that the need is reduced. In fact, just the opposite. The nonprofit sector is put in the position of having to provide for an even greater number of people.

Based on the economic downturn, many nonprofits have done an admirable job of shifting their reliance on government funding to other sources. The bulk of these other sources are charitable contributions. The Charitable Tax deduction is an extra incentive for citizens, who are financially stretched themselves, to give to nonprofits. Placing limits on the deduction for charitable contributions would jeopardize that amount of funding from individuals.

The government needs to realize that nonprofits have, in many cases, stepped up to fill in governmental gaps. They have kept much of society from falling through the cracks when government services have become obsolete. Legislators should be doing everything in their power to support the nonprofit sector, rather than finding every back door to take more funding away. Those nonprofits that have found other means of financial support and decreased their reliance on government funding should be encouraged and supported. Individuals who have stepped up to help nonprofits make up for governmental shortfalls should be encouraged and supported. Do not take away or limit the charitable tax deduction, unless you are ready to replace the funding to the nonprofit sector.

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