

we feed. we shelter. we support.



we care

SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR LEGISLATOR

Date

The Honorable _____

United States House of Representatives/Senate

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

As your constituent and an employee/volunteer/supporter of the Volunteers of America Colorado Branch, I am writing to urge you to protect the value of the charitable deduction. The charitable deduction is an important and effective incentive for giving. It ensures that Coloradans can give freely to the causes that matter the most to them, that the needs of your constituents are met, and that our state's economy can continue to grow. Reducing or capping the value of itemized deductions for charitable contributions would jeopardize support for nonprofits like Volunteers of America.

As you may know, the Volunteers of America Colorado Branch directs more than 30 distinct human service programs throughout the state of Colorado, which help more than 200,000 Coloradans each year. Since 1896, our ministry of service has supported and empowered America's most vulnerable groups, including at-risk youth, the frail elderly, low-income families, homeless individuals and families, women and children escaping domestic violence, and those seeking affordable housing solutions. Volunteers of America is proud to be part of a network of charitable nonprofits that employs 142,000 Coloradans, represents 8% of Colorado's private workforce, and makes up 7% of Colorado's gross domestic product expenditures.

Like many non-profit organizations, Volunteers of America depends upon contributions from generous donors to meet our community's needs. These donations are incentivized through the charitable deduction, which is different from other itemized deductions in that it encourages individuals to selflessly invest in their communities. It is a highly effective tax provision, as the public typically receives three dollars of benefit for every one dollar donated.

Reducing or limiting the charitable deduction would substantially affect Volunteers of America's ability to serve Coloradans. (Include your personal statement, story, or reasoning here. If you can, explain how a reduction in the charitable deduction would impact the program you work with or care about).

Again, I urge you to oppose any proposal that would reduce or limit the charitable deduction. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I appreciate the time you have taken to hear my concern, and I am hopeful that you will continue in your work to protect the best interests of Colorado and its communities.

Sincerely,

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip