



*Grantmakers Forum of New York*  
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*Engaging funders in the quest for philanthropic excellence*

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July 1, 2010

RE: S 6610B, A 9710C

Dear Assemblyman:

In agreement with the attached memorandum of opposition, the members of Grantmakers Forum of New York urge you to oppose this proposal to limit the deductibility of charitable gifts in an attempt to balance the state budget.

Limiting the deductibility of gifts from individuals of high net worth injures the nonprofit organizations in our communities. These are organizations that have provided needed services in the face of repeated government funding cuts. Many individuals of means in New York have stepped up to support the nonprofit sector in a time of serious economic recession. Please do not penalize the very individuals you have appealed to for help in serving people in need.

In fact, the limit of 25% deductibility of gifts from individuals of wealth makes it more attractive for them to give to their own private foundations than to the United Ways, community foundations and other public charities that directly support our human service infrastructure. In a time of need, this does not seem like a formula for success.

Please take a moment to review the attached memorandum. The over 1,860 private foundations and public charity grantmakers in Upstate New York look to state government to work with them in support of our nonprofits.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Wilder  
Executive Director