People in Connecticut are generous. They don’t give because of the charitable deduction rule, but the deduction enables them to give more. CT taxpayers who itemized gave $3.4 billion to charities in 2014, representing an estimated 80% of all individual giving in the state.

More than one third of Connecticut taxpayers itemize and take a charitable deduction. By comparison, about one quarter of taxpayers nationally are itemizers.

Over the last five years in CT (2010–2014), people who itemized on their taxes gave $16.6 billion to charity (including bequests from estates).

Connecticut’s Giving Affected

Studies suggest that if the standard deduction were increased as proposed in Congress, then itemizers would be few, and charitable giving in Connecticut would sharply decrease.

Current Proposals Could Hurt Giving

Proposals by both the administration and the House Republican Blueprint include various changes that would reduce or eliminate incentives for Americans to give more to charity. Increasing the standard deduction, placing a hard cap on itemizers, creating a floor of 2% of AGI – each of these proposals would cost billions in charitable donations to organizations and to causes every year in every community in America.

Preserve the Value & Scope

The law that created the charitable deduction is marking its 100th anniversary this year. Preserving the full value and scope of the current charitable tax deduction is vital to the nation. It will honor a unique American tradition that promotes private charity for the public good.