

NON-PROFIT ISSUES

Request:

- Maintain tax-exempt status for non-profits – without overburdening them with excessive new regulations or restrictions – to help them remain financially viable.
- Expand affordable ways for associations and non-profits to provide quality health care coverage to their employees.

Introduction:

Non-profits are a critical part of our national infrastructure, providing essential social services to our communities. Many serve as critical partners to the government to meet the varied and unique needs of the communities they serve, ranging from health and education services to job training and public safety programs. With more than 13 million employees and 4 million volunteers, they are on the front lines of every town in America. In difficult economic times, demand for these services is greater than ever.

Talking Points:

- Since most museums are non-profit institutions, they are invested in and affected by policies that influence the non-profit community as a whole. Perhaps the most important of these is the need to protect the tax-exempt status of non-profit museums.
- Many cultural institutions in this country are not-for-profit, charitable organizations with a mission of service and education. This service comes in many forms, including nourishing the imagination; educating children, teachers, and lifelong learners; and strengthening communities.
- The cost of health insurance for small organizations has increased rapidly in recent years, making it cost-prohibitive for many small, non-profit museums and associations to offer health insurance to their employees.
- The Small Business Cooperative for Health Care Options to Improve Coverage for Employees (CHOICE) Act would expand access to high-quality, affordable health insurance access for American small businesses, associations and the self-employed.
- The legislation helps associations and small businesses offer health insurance to employees through a refundable tax credit of 65%. The legislation would allow small businesses that belong to an association or membership group to form a health insurance pool. These Cooperatives would allow small businesses to moderate health care premium increases, expand the number of employees covered, and make health care costs more affordable for employers and employees.
 - **STATUS:** The Small Business Cooperative for Health Care Options to Improve Coverage for Employees (CHOICE) Act – H.R. 859 – was introduced by U.S. House Small Business Committee Chair Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.) on February 4, 2009.