

Federal Advocacy Alert #5

Ask Your U.S. House and Senate Representatives to Co-Sponsor the Artists' Fair Market Value Deductions Bill



Please send an e-mail to your representative and senators to encourage them to sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 1524 in the U.S. House and S. 548 in the U.S. Senate - the Artists' Fair Market Value Deduction Bill.

Currently, living artists, writers, choreographers, scholars, and composers have no financial incentive to give their works to nonprofit institutions, because they cannot claim a tax deduction for the fair market value of their work. Rather, they can deduct only the value of materials, such as paper and ink or paint and canvas. As a result, works of local, regional, and national significance are sold into private hands and never come into the public domain. By contrast, if you or I purchase a work of art by a living artist and donate it to a nonprofit, we can claim the fair market value deduction on our income taxes.


Our goal is to try to get the maximum number of cosponsors for the bill, so that its authors will be in the best possible position of strength should an opportunity come to move it forward. H.R. 1524 and S. 548 are bipartisan. Democrats and Republicans alike who support the arts have cosponsored it. In addition, it attracts support from members, including conservative Republicans, who are committed to fairness in the tax code and thus oppose unequal treatment for artists.

Please go to the American for the Arts Capwiz site below to send an email to your U.S. House Representative and Senators Nelson and Martinez to encourage them to sign on as a cosponsor of the bills:

<http://capwiz.com/artsusa/officials/congress/?view=myofficials&azip=32714&bzip=3839&affiliatelookup=1&submit.x=17&submit.y=8>

When creators of artistic works do not have the same incentive to donate that other taxpayers enjoy, our heritage is often sold abroad or goes into private collections. S. 548 / H.R. 1524 would encourage gifts of visual art such as paintings and sculptures as well as original manuscripts and supporting material created by composers, authors, and choreographers. Our museums, schools, other nonprofit institutions and communities will all benefit.

As always, thank you for your advocacy efforts. Your voice *does* make a difference.



Margot H. Knight
President & CEO

Minda Logan
Director of Grants & Government Affairs
