

## Congress Approves Accelerated Tax Deduction for Haitian Earthquake Donations

Taxpayers who make donations to qualified charities to benefit victims of the January 12, 2010, earthquake have the choice to claim a tax deduction on either their 2009 or 2010 federal tax returns. The **donations must have been made between January 12 and March 1, 2010, in cash or by credit card to qualified domestic charities**. Contributions of marketable securities cannot be deducted on the 2009 tax return.

Taxpayers must itemize their deductions to take advantage of charitable deduction. Some higher income taxpayers may find it more beneficial to delay claiming the deduction until filing their 2010 return, as the limitation on itemized deductions expires after the 2009 tax year.

One unique feature of the bill is that it allows taxpayers to substantiate deductions made by text message on their cell phone with a record from their cellular provider showing the date, amount, and name of the organization receiving the contribution.

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