



Florida
Philanthropic
Network

Building Philanthropy to Build a Better Florida

The Honorable Evelyn Lynn
212 SOB
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

March 12, 2009

Dear Senator Lynn:

On behalf of Florida's charitable foundations and grantmaking organizations, I am writing to express our opposition to **HB 1163/SB 2576**, which would eliminate virtually all nonprofit sales tax exemptions effective July 1, 2012.

There is indeed one area of exemption that should continue, and that is the exemption for churches and other 501(c)(3) charities. These are the organizations on the front lines of our communities, like the ARC of Volusia, which serves approximately 250 Volusia County adults with developmental disabilities every day, or the Clay Behavioral Health Center which provides Clay County residents affordable mental health and substance abuse services, and the Boys and Girls Club of Marion County that serves over 900 Marion County youth annually. To extract a tax from charities like these is not the answer. Many nonprofits are struggling themselves during the state's severe economic recession, facing dwindling financial resources while the demand for their critical services increase.

I will contact you in the next week to set an appointment with you to further discuss our concerns. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me directly at 407.478.0505 or kensign@fpnetwork.org. Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Katie Ensign
President