

# Foundation Diversity and Transparency Act

## Quotes

### Democratizing Philanthropy: Making the Case for Stronger Diversity in Foundation Practices

“This year’s charitable donations are expected to total more than \$2000 billion, a record. But a big portion of this impressive sum — especially from the wealthy, who have the most to donate—is going to culture palaces: to the operas, art museums, symphonies and theaters where the wealthy spend much of their leisure time.”

**-Robert Reich, Op-Ed, Los Angeles Times**

“There is No Study that Says Foundations Are Appropriately Serving Minorities on a Percentage Basis”

**-Steve Gunderson, President of the National Council on Foundations, Video: Leadership in Philanthropy 2006**

“Charitable organizations play a key role in our country’s ability to respond to the needs of its communities, which have become increasingly diverse. We must do more to serve all Americans no matter where they live and match charitable resources with the needs of diverse communities.”

**-John Lewis, Chairman of the Committee on Way and Means, Statement before the Subcommittee on Oversight**

“During the [Hurricane Katrina] relief effort, some advocacy groups observed that the Red Cross had not consistently met the needs of a diverse segment of their communities. One group asserted that the Red Cross workforce lacked diversity from top to bottom, and, as a result, was not sufficiently sensitive to racial and cultural issues.”

**-Kevin M. Brown, Chief Operating Officer of the Red Cross, Testimony before the Subcommittee on Oversight**

“A \$30 million gift to a concert hall is not philanthropy, it is a Napoleonic coronation.”

**-William H. Gross, Billionaire Investor**

“When foundations, corporations and individuals give money to the opera, my folks are very unlikely to benefit from those forgone tax dollars that could have been used for health care, for after-school programs for kids, for helping in getting access to college education.”

**-Congressman Xavier Becerra, New York Times**

“Grantmaking for minorities has declined as a proportion of grants awarded by the generally largest foundations.”

**-Rick Cohen, The Non-Profit Quarterly**

“The losses in federal and state revenues from charitable deductions far exceed donor transfers to the needy. Redistribution has been demonstrated to be far better achieved through government appropriations that through tax remission or deduction measures.”

**-Julian Wolpert, Ph.D., Princeton University, Princeton, Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Oversight**