

Charitable Foundations Eyed As Key to Estate Tax Fix

By Peter Cohn

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... The influential philanthropic lobby can be counted on for a fight if senators actually pursue a crackdown on foundations. Andrew Schulz, vice president for legal and government relations at the Council on Foundations, said it would be short-sighted to target foundations as a revenue source, as it would depress charitable giving in the same way Obama's proposal would.

Advocates say the estate tax encourages charitable giving through the deduction, and should be kept at a higher rate. "The optimal level for the estate tax is one that maximizes revenue, maximizes charitable donations and minimizes wealth transferred to heirs," said Aaron Dorfman, executive director of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy.

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