



Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc.  
4780 Cattlemen Road  
Sarasota, FL 34233

March 21, 2025

Dear Florida Congressman,

On behalf of Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, thank you for your ongoing support of the Girl Scout Movement. **I write to ask for your support of the Charitable Act (H.R.801/S.317).** This bipartisan piece of legislation will create a non-itemized, universal charitable deduction which will empower taxpayers to give back to their communities.

This non-itemizer deduction, also known as a Universal Charitable Deduction, has been proven to incentivize charitable giving by individuals and couples. A previous short-term non-itemizer deduction allowed taxpayers to claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash gifts in 2020. Congress extended this special deduction for 2021 and increased it for joint filers to claim up to \$600. The IRS reported that 42.2 million households generated \$10.9 billion in charitable giving in 2020 alone. One fifth (21.3%) of those donations came from taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$30,000. Data shows an increase of 7.5% in individual gifts of \$300 in both 2020 and 2021, and donations of \$600 increased 5% in 2021, compared to 2019. The deduction expired after 2021.

Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida relies on individual contributions in order to provide important programing, resources, and support for our 6,200 Girl Scout members. On a national level, Girl Scout programming has been proven to have amazing outcomes for girls: In comparison to 54% of non-Girl Scouts, 67% of Girl Scouts believe that they lead purposeful and meaningful lives.

At Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, we've seen firsthand how Girl Scouts make an impact:

- 90% of Florida Girl Scouts say Girl Scouts gives them a sense of belonging.
- Girl Scout alums attain a higher level of education than their peers.

- Girl Scouts cite their troop leader as their #1 source of positive mental health, above friends, family, and school.
- 99% of Girl Scouts feel safe in the organization.
- 95% of Girl Scout alums who spent 7+ years in the program are satisfied with their life overall, compared to 80% of non-alums.

(Source: [State of the Florida Girl Report, 2024](#))

By supporting the Charitable Act, you will be playing a key role in helping us to magnify our impact for years to come.

Thank you, again, for your support of the Girl Scout Movement, and we look forward to receiving your support on this important piece of legislation.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Servian". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Mary Anne Servian  
Chief Executive Officer/Chief Girl Champion  
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