

On January 21, 2010, the Senate passed and the President signed a bill which would allow taxpayers who make charitable contributions to aid Haitian earthquake victims to elect to claim an itemized charitable deduction on their 2009 tax return (instead of having to wait until next year to claim the deductions on their 2010 tax return). The election would apply only to Haitian relief contributions made in cash after Jan. 11, 2010, and before Mar. 1, 2010.

The record keeping for the Haiti contributions made is modified to include phone bills as proof of text-messaged donations. The bill must show the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.