

In “Never Enough Beauty or Truth” (op-ed, Feb.2), Heather MacDonald provocatively argues that challenges to philanthropic freedom abound. The Alliance for Charitable Reform (“ACR”) couldn’t agree more. ACR is a project of The Philanthropy Roundtable established in 2005 to *defend* the charitable sector against such encroachments.

ACR must, however, correct a couple of errors in Ms. MacDonald’s otherwise laudable piece.

The threats posed to the autonomy of charitable organizations have been increasing over the past five years, and are not limited to Greenlining -- an entity whose goal is forcing charitable foundations through government mandates to support *Greenlining’s* agenda – rather than charitable foundations being true to their own goals and purposes. Even before the current economic crisis, there has been a growing movement to view foundations as deep pockets.

And while we share Ms. MacDonald’s concern for charitable freedom, and we welcome her voice to our cause, we must take exception to her suggestion that Congressmen Charles Rangel (D-NY), John Conyers (D-MI) and John Lewis (D-GA) are aligned with those who would undermine the historic and vital role of private foundations in our society. We know of no facts to support her concern.

Regarding Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA), ACR does take issue with certain of his views on nonprofit issues. However, ACR is eager to seek common ground with him and others in Congress, while remaining vigilant against efforts to undermine America’s vibrant charitable sector.

Sue Santa  
The Philanthropy Roundtable

Sandra Swirski  
Alliance for Charitable Reform