The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
2083 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roybal-Allard:

The undersigned organizations strongly oppose proposals that would politicize the charitable nonprofit and philanthropic community by repealing or weakening current federal tax law protections that prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations from endorsing, opposing, or contributing to political candidates.

Nonpartisanship is a cornerstone principle that has strengthened the public’s trust of the charitable community. In exchange for enjoying tax-exempt status and the ability to receive tax-deductible contributions, 501(c)(3) organizations – charitable nonprofits, including religious congregations, and foundations – agree to not engage in “any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”

That provision of law protects the integrity and independence of charitable nonprofits and foundations. It shields the entire 501(c)(3) community against the rancor of partisan politics so the charitable community can be a safe haven where individuals of all beliefs come together to solve community problems free from partisan divisions. It screens out doubts and suspicions regarding ulterior partisan motives of charitable organizations, as undoubtedly would occur if even just a few charitable organizations engaged in partisan politics. Nonpartisan credibility is critical to the ability of 501(c)(3) organizations to work with elected officials of all parties at the local, state, and federal levels to address community needs.

Charitable nonprofits, including religious congregations, are free to speak on important matters of the day and advocate on public policy issues and legislation. Private foundations, while barred from most lobbying activities, are free to engage in public debates, promote public education efforts, and fund a wide range of issue-focused activities. The relevant language in Section 501(c)(3) merely prohibits partisan campaign intervention, defined to include endorsing or opposing candidates for public office, publishing or distributing statements for or against candidates, or using tax-deductible and other resources to support partisan campaign activities.

We are united in opposing any and all efforts to weaken or repeal this longstanding protection in the federal tax code (sometimes called the Johnson Amendment) that President Eisenhower signed into law in 1954. Weakening the law by allowing leaders of individual 501(c)(3) entities to endorse candidates for public office and engage in some partisan electioneering activities would damage the integrity and effectiveness of all charitable organizations and spawn litigation as innovative partisans seek to expand gray areas in the proposed legislation. Repealing the Johnson Amendment, an approach promoted by the President and some in Congress, would damage the federal Treasury as people take tax deductions for political contributions they could then funnel through charitable nonprofits, undercut fair elections by providing a loophole to avoid campaign contribution disclosure laws, and empower politicians to exert pressure for access to foundation assets and charitable funds for their own partisan campaigns rather than for the public good.
We urge you to join us in opposing efforts to weaken and/or repeal the current law that for six decades has successfully protected the integrity and effectiveness of charitable nonprofits and foundations by keeping them apart from partisan politics.

Respectfully,

California

10u Veteran, Inc. Palm Springs
A Place Called Home Los Angeles
Abrams Consulting Santa Rosa
AchieveKids San Francisco
Agile Rascal Theatre Oakland
Alameda County Community Food Bank Ukiah
Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center Sunnyvale
Almond Consulting Bakersfield
Alternatives in Action Oakland
Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Kern County, CA
Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Orange County, CA
Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Sacramento CA Chapter
Animal Legal Defense Fund Cotati
Ann Martin Center Emeryville
Art Without Limits Santa Barbara
Asian Pacific Community Fund Los Angeles
Assistance League of Palm Springs Desert Area Rancho Mirage
Association of Fundraising Professionals, Orange County Santa Ana
Baby2Baby Los Angeles
Brooke Foundation Donor Advised Fund at RSF Foundation Chico
Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council Freestone
C. S. Fund Ventura
CA Destination Imagination
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation
California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits)
California Council of Churches
California Council of Churches IMPACT
California for Democracy Oakland
California School-Age Consortium Berkeley
Cancer Care Network Foundation
Cappella SF San Mateo
Catalina Island Museum Avalon
Celiac Disease Foundation Woodland Hills
Charities Housing San Jose
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
Chinatown Service Center Los Angeles
ChrisBooks Accounting San Jose
Cinnabar Arts Corporation
CLUE: Clergy & Laity United For Economic Justice
Community Education Partnerships Oakland
Community Foundation of the Valleys
Community Medical Centers Fresno
CompassPoint Nonprofit Services San Francisco
Compton Foundation Solana Beach
Create Possibility San Francisco
Creativity Explored Claremont
Crossroads, Inc. Hillsborough
Crystal Springs Uplands School Freestone
CS Fund San Francisco
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation
Desert Ability Center La Quinta
Digital Democracy Oakland
Diversiary Theatre San Diego
Earle Baum Center of the Blind, Inc.
Eddington Advisory Services Mill Valley
Effective Nonprofits
Eleanor Smith & Associates
Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden Palo Alto
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<td>Hemet</td>
<td>Jewish Family Service of San Diego</td>
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<td>First Graduate</td>
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<td>Junior League of San Diego</td>
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<td>Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>JVS Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Friedman Consulting</td>
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<td>Lighthouse Philanthropy Advisors</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
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<td>Habitat for Humanity of Orange County</td>
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<td>Heart to Heart</td>
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<td>Los Angeles LGBT Center</td>
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<td>Heather Mack Consulting LLC</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Loveland Farm Sanctuary</td>
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<td>InConcert Sierra</td>
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<td>MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger</td>
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<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, Inc.</td>
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<td>InspiraLaw</td>
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<td>Mission Edge</td>
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<td>Institute for Religious Tolerance, Peace and Justice</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Mission Minded</td>
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<td>International Community Foundation</td>
<td>National City</td>
<td>Mona Bismarck American Center</td>
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<td>Morgan Family Foundation</td>
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| Organization                                                                 | City       | California Location
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Mosaic Consulting and Coaching                                             | San Jose   | Sacramento
| Mountaintop Montessori                                                     | Charlottesville | Glendale
| Napa Valley Community Housing                                              | Napa       | San Diego
| Nashashibi International Consultants, LLC                                  | Laguna Hills | San Diego
| Neighborhood Funders Group                                                 | Oakland    | San Diego
| NEO Law Group                                                               | San Francisco | San Diego
| NGO Catalyst                                                               |             | Atascadero
| Niswa Association, Inc.                                                    | Los Angeles | Santa Monica
| NKR Consulting                                                             | Sunnyvale  | Santa Monica
| Nonprofit Alliance of Monterey County                                      |             | Santa Barbara
| Not Man Apart Physical Theatre                                             | Los Angeles | Mountain View
| Notre Dame de Namur University                                              | Belmont    | Berkeley
| Oakland Museum of California                                               | Oakland    | San Francisco
| OneJustice                                                                 | San Francisco | Sonora
| Orange County United Way                                                   | Irvine     | Mountain View
| Pacific Community Ventures                                                 | San Francisco | Mountain View
| Pacific Links Foundation                                                   |             | San Jose
| Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust                                       | Watsonville | Silicon Valley
| Pasadena Conservatory of Music                                              | Pasadena   | Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
| Paso Pacifico                                                               | Ventura    | Solar Richmond
| Patricia D. and William B. Smullin Foundation                              | Eureka     | Somos Mayfair
| Patriots and Paws                                                          | Huntington Beach | South Asian Network
| Peninsular Family Service                                                  | San Mateo  | Southern California Center for Nonprofit Management
| Philanthropy California (a joint initiative of Northern California Grantmakers, San Diego Grantmakers, and Southern California Grantmakers) | Los Angeles | Speech and Language Development Center
| Point Foundation                                                           | Los Angeles | St. Ignatius College Preparatory
| Pro Kids, The First Tee of San Diego                                      | San Diego  | Stapleton School of the Performing Arts
| Rancho Santa Fe Foundation                                                 | San Jose   | Steve Colton Inc.
| Recovery Cafe San Jose                                                     | Venice     | Strawberry Seals, Inc.
| reDiscover Center                                                          | Clovis     | Surrogate Gallery Projects
| Regenerate California Innovation                                           | San Jose   | SWEA
| Respite and Research for Alzheimer's Disease                              | Richmond   | Swift Foundation
| Richmond Community Foundation                                              | Richmond   | Teen Success, Inc.
| Rochester Institute of Technology                                          | Los Altos  | The 5 Gyres Institute
|                                                                          |             | The American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine
|                                                                          |             | The Christensen Fund
|                                                                          |             | The Contemporary Jewish Museum
|                                                                          |             | The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
|                                                                          |             | The Dibble Institute
The Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden  Palo Alto  Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
The Fieldstone Foundation  Berkeley  America Solidaria U.S.
The Impact Fund  Los Angeles  American Alliance of Museums
The Lawrence Welk Family Foundation  Los Angeles  American Association of Anatomists
The Nicholson Family Foundation  Aptos  American Association of Physics Teachers
The River Project  Berkeley  American Association of Teachers of German
Theresa Nelson & Associates  Oakland  American Atheists
Tides  San Francisco  American Bladder Cancer Society
TR Brown Consulting  Oakland  American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine
Transform  Livermore  American Brass Chamber Music Association
Tri Valley Haven  Woodland  American Conference of Academic Deans
Tuleyome  Woodland  American Heart Association
Unemployment Services Trust  Rancho Mirage  American Historical Association
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert  Bakersfield  Americans for the Arts
United Way of Kern County  Bakersfield  American Medical Association Foundation
United Ways of California  Tiburon  American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.
Unleashing Generosity / Triskeles Foundation  Davis  American Red Cross
Vegan Outreach  San Francisco  Americas for the Arts
Vesper Society  Palo Alto  Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired  Santa Barbara  Anti-Defamation League
Wave Foundation  Costa Mesa  Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Waves of Gratefulness  Los Angeles  Association for Jewish Outreach Professionals
Weingart Foundation  Los Angeles  Association of American Colleges and Universities
Western Methodist Justice Movement  Long Beach  Association of Art Museum Directors
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management  Riverside  Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel
WomenShelter of Long Beach  Long Beach  Association of Fundraising Professionals
Youssef and Kamel Mawardi Fund  Riverside  Association of Immunization Managers
YWCA Berkeley / Oakland  Berkeley and Oakland  Association of Nature Center Administrators
YWCA of North Orange County  Fullerton  Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
YWCA San Francisco & Marin  San Rafael  Baptists Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

National Organizations
Abila
Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education, Inc.
AdoptAClassroom.org
African Diaspora United, Inc.
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

Center for Inquiry
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Citizen Schools
CleanSlateNow
Common Cause
Commonwealth Fund
Council on Foundations
Council for Global Equality
Dance USA
Dementia Society, Inc.
Democracy 21
Destination & Travel Foundation
Dietel Partners, LLC
Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
Easter Seals
Ecology Project International
Engineering Conferences International
Episcopal Relief & Development
Feed the Children
Feeding America
Fidesco USA
Food & Water Watch
Ford Foundation
Free Press
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
Global Integrity
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations
Greater Nonprofits
GuideStar
Habitat for Humanity International
Harbor Compliance
HawkWatch International
Hindu American Foundation
Histiocytosis Foundation
Horizons National
Human Science Institute
Independent Sector
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Hearing Dog, Inc.
International Performing Arts for Youth
International Primate Protection League
Issue One
Jessie Ball DuPont Fund
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America
Leadership USA
League of American Orchestras
League of Women Voters
Leukemia Research Foundation

Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education
Lumina Foundation
Lymphoma Foundation of America
Migraine Research Foundation
Millennium Water Alliance
Mentors International
Morino Ventures, LLC
National 4-H Council
National Alliance of Community Economic Development
National Association of Charitable Gift Planners
National Association of Health Data Organizations
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)
National Association of Watch and Collectors
National Association for Shoplifting Prevention
NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Center for Fire and Life Safety
National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
National Council of Behavioral Health
National Council of Churches
National Council of Nonprofits
National Council of Tribes
National Dance Education Organization
National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National Human Services Assembly
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation
National Runaway Safeline
National Safe Place Network
National Tongan American Society
NEO Law Group
North American Bramble Growers Research Foundation
OPERA America
Partnership for America's Children
Pension Fund of the Christian Church
Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement
Project Wet Foundation
Project Managers Without Borders
Public Citizen
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Secular Coalition for America
Senior Executives Association
Seva Foundation
Skillman Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Smith’s Food and Drug
Social Velocity
The Arc of the United States
The Aspen Institute
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.
The Commonwealth Fund
The Dibble Institute
The Educational Foundation of America
The George Gund Foundation
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
The Michael J. Fox Foundation
The Ocean Foundation
The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
The Voter Participation Center
TIDES
Unemployment Services Trust
Union for Reform Judaism
United Philanthropy Forum
United Soldiers and Sailors of America
United Way Worldwide
University Professional & Continuing Education Association
US Lacrosse
Vasculitis Foundation
Volunteers in Medicine
Volunteers of America
Voto Latino
Wallace Global Fund
WasteWater Education
Weingart Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Words Without Borders
World Day of Prayer USA
World Neighbors, Inc.
Youth Services America
YWCA USA