The Honorable Andy Biggs  
1626 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Biggs:

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,

Arizona

501 Navigation Tucson
A Stepping Stone Foundation Phoenix
Advanced Independence Charity Sun City
Alan R Davidson, PLLC Phoenix
Alliance of Arizona nonprofits Lake Havasu City
Allied Arts Council Tucson
Alzheimer's Research and Prevention Foundation Phoenix
American Heart Association Tucson
Archaeology Southwest Phoenix
Arizona Autism United Phoenix
Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Phoenix
Arizona Community Foundation Phoenix
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers Phoenix
Arizona Family Planning Council, Inc. Phoenix
Arizona Grantmakers Forum Phoenix
Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Phoenix
Arizona Humanities Phoenix
Arizona YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix
Arts for All, Inc. Phoenix
Ascension Lutheran Church Tuba City
Assist To Independence Phoenix
Association of Arizona Food Banks Phoenix
AZ Meds for Vets Phoenix
Backpacks 4 Kids AZ, Inc. Phoenix
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson Phoenix
Bisbee Restoration Paradise Valley
Association and Historical Society (Museum), Inc. Tuba City
Black Canyon Historical Society Phoenix
Boxer Luv Rescue Phoenix
Boys & Girls Club of Kingman
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona Phoenix
Business Mentor Team Scottsdale
Cancer Survivors Circle of Strength of AZ Phoenix
Caritas Law Group, PC Tempe
Cave Creek Museum Glendale
Celebrate Volunteers Chandler
Center Stage Chandler
Communications Chandler
Central Arizona Shelter Services Phoenix
Chandler Symphony Orchestra Phoenix
Child and Family Resources, Inc. Chandler
Child Crisis Arizona Tempe
Children's Action Alliance Phoenix
Childsplay Tempe
Chrysalis Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc. Phoenix
Circle the City Phoenix
Coahcise Canine Rescue Benson
Community Foundation for Northern Arizona Tucson
Compass Affordable Housing, Inc. Tucson
Cornucopia Community Advocates Sedona
Courtney's Place Scottsdale
Creating the Future Tucson
Cultural Arts Coalition Tempe
D'Artz International Scottsdale
Downtown Radio Tucson
Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona Phoenix
Eagles Wings of Grace, Int'l. Tucson
Earn to Learn Tucson
Elfrida Citizens Alliance Inc. Elfrida
Empower International Gilbert
Eve's Place, Inc. Phoenix
Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival Flagstaff
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

Arizona

UPDATED September 5, 2017

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Flinn Foundation	ONE - The Organization for Nonprofit Executives
Friends of Navajo County	Litchfield Park
Anti-Drug Coalition, Inc.	Phoenix
Friends of the Library - Kingman	Our Family Services
Kingman	Tucson
Friends of the San Pedro River	Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry
Gabriel's Angels	Safford
Global Youth Delegation For Peace and Tolerance	Phxca, Inc.
Graceful Fundraising, LLC	Mesa
Grants On Track, LLC	Prescott Meals On Wheels
Growing Alternative Resource Development and Enterprise Network (GARDEN), Inc. Prescott Valley
Heritage Designs	Prescott
HR Foundations AZ	Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
ICM Food & Clothing Bank	Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Inspired Connections	Phoenix
It Is, Inc. d/b/a 'Tis Jews Free Loan
Jewish Free Loan	Santa Cruz Grants & Consulting, LLC
Kimetta Coleman Ministries	Rio Rico
Kingdom Philanthropy	Save the Family Foundation of AZ
Lead for Change	Mesa
Leading For Change	Sky Island Alliance
Lighthouse Christian Community Church	Tucson
Literacy Connects	Smith & Dale Philanthropic Counsel
Living Streets Alliance	Sonoran Glass School
LPFM Downtown Tucson	Tucson
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest	Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center, SEAHEC, Inc.
Make Way for Books	St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance
Mesa United Way	Phoenix
Metropolitan Education Commission	Stardust Non-Profit Building Supplies
Mi Familia Vota Education Fund	Strategy +
Mount Zion Church	Action/Philanthropy
My Heart His Palace	Sue Sirkus, CFRE
Christian International Ministries	Tucson
NAMI Southern Arizona	Take Charge America, Inc.
Native Seeds/SEARCH	TechTHiNQ
Neighbors Who Care, Inc.	Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
Network Life, LLC	The Bidstrup Foundation
Neurofit Networks	The Cagney Company
NPC Friends and Family	The David and Lura Lovell Foundation
Old Pueblo Community Services	Tucson
The Hearth Foundation Tucson
The New Foundation Scottsdale
Theatre Artists Studio Phoenix
Trellis Phoenix
Triple Stone Education Support Phoenix
Tucson Foundations Tucson
Tucson Urban League Tucson
Urbanly DIVA, Inc. Phoenix
Vitalyst Health Foundation Phoenix
Warehouse Arts Management Organization Tucson
West Greenway Bible Church Tucson
WHEAT, the World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training organization Phoenix
World Youth Visit and Exchange of Arizona Phoenix
Yavapai Food Council Sedona
Young Artist Society Mesa

**National Organizations**

Abila
Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education, Inc.
AdoptAClassroom.org
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
America Solidaria U.S.
American Alliance of Museums
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Teachers of German
American Atheists
American Bladder Cancer Society
American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine
American Brass Chamber Music Association
American Conference of Academic Deans
American Heart Association
American Historical Association
American Jewish Committee
American Medical Association Foundation
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.
American Red Cross
Americans for the Arts
Americans Promoting Study Abroad
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Amyloidosis Foundation
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Anti-Defamation League
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Association for Jewish Outreach Professionals
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Nature Center Administrators
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
Baptist Women in Ministry
Barr Foundation
BoardSource
Brady Campaign and Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Camp Fire
Campion Foundation
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Mobilizing Network
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Center for Inquiry
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Citizen Schools
CleanSlateNow
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
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 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