The Honorable David Schweikert  
2059 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schweikert:

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 Phoenix
Foundation
Advanced Independence Sun City
Charity Phoenix
Alan R Davidson, PLLC
Alliance of Arizona
Phoenix
Nonprofits
Allied Arts Council Lake Havasu City
Alzheimer's Research and Tucson
Prevention Foundation Phoenix
American Heart Association Tucson
Archaeology Southwest Phoenix
Arizona Autism United Sun City
Arizona Center for the Blind Phoenix
and Visually Impaired
Arizona Community Phoenix
Foundation
Arizona Council of Human Phoenix
Service Providers
Arizona Family Planning Phoenix
Council, Inc.
Arizona Grantmakers Forum Phoenix
Arts for All, Inc. Phoenix
Ascension Lutheran Church Tuba City
Assist To Independence Paradise Valley
Association of Arizona Food Phoenix
Banks
AZ Meds for Vets Phoenix
Backpacks 4 Kids AZ, Inc. Phoenix
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Phoenix
Tucson
Bisbee Restoration Tucson
Association and Historical Phoenix
Society (Museum), Inc.
Black Canyon Historical Phoenix
Society
Boxer Luv Rescue Phoenix

Boys & Girls Club of Kingman
Kingman
Brain Injury Alliance of Phoenix
Arizona
Business Mentor Team Scottsdale
Cancer Survivors Circle of Phoenix
Strength of AZ
Caritas Law Group, PC Phoenix
Cave Creek Museum Tempe
Celebrate Volunteers Glendale
Center Stage Chandler
Communications Chandler
Central Arizona Shelter Phoenix
Services
Chandler Symphony Phoenix
Orchestra
Child and Family Resources, Chandler
Inc.
Child Crisis Arizona Tucson
Children's Action Alliance Mesa
Childsplay Phoenix
Chrysalis Shelter for Victims Phoenix
of Domestic Violence, Inc.
Circle the City
Cochise Canine Rescue Benson
Community Foundation for Tucson
Southern Arizona
Compass Affordable Phoenix
Housing, Inc.
Cornucopia Community Phoenix
Advocates
Courteny's Place Scottsdale
Creating the Future Tucson
Cultural Arts Coalition Tempe
D'Artz International Scottsdale
Downtown Radio
Drowning Prevention Tucson
Coalition of Arizona
Eagles Wings of Grace, Int'l. Phoenix
Earn to Learn Tucson
Elfrida Citizens Alliance Inc. Elfrida
Empower International Gilbert
Eve's Place, Inc. Phoenix
Flagstaff Shakespeare Flagstaff
Festival
<table>
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Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UDPATED September 5, 2017

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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
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
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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
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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
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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
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Feed the Children
Feeding America
Fidesco USA
Food & Water Watch
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Free Press
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Migraine Research Foundation
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Morino Ventures, LLC
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National LGBTQ Task Force
National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation
National Runaway Safeline
National Safe Place Network
National Tongan American Society
NEO Law Group
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OPERA America
Partnership for America's Children
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Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement
Project Wet Foundation
Project Managers Without Borders
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Senior Executives Association
Seva Foundation
Skillman Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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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
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The Voter Participation Center
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World Day of Prayer USA
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Youth Services America
YWCA USA