The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
1725 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Representative Sinema:

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
A Stepping Stone Foundation
Advanced Independence Charity
Alan R Davidson, PLLC Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits
Allied Arts Council Alzheimer's Research and Prevention Foundation
American Heart Association Archaeology Southwest
Arizona Autism United
Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Arizona Community Foundation
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Arizona Family Planning Council, Inc.
Arizona Grantmakers Forum
Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Humanities
Arizona YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix
Arts for All, Inc.
Ascension Lutheran Church Assist To Independence Association of Arizona Food Banks
AZ Meds for Vets
Backpacks 4 Kids AZ, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson
Bisbee Restoration Association and Historical Society (Museum), Inc.
Black Canyon Historical Society
Boxer Luv Rescue
Boys & Girls Club of Kingman
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
Business Mentor Team
Cancer Survivors Circle of Strength of AZ
Caritas Law Group, PC Cave Creek Museum
Celebrate Volunteers Center Stage
Communications
Central Arizona Shelter Services
Chandler Symphony Orchestra
Child and Family Resources, Inc.
Child Crisis Arizona Children’s Action Alliance
Childsplay
Chrysalis Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc.
Circle the City Cochise Canine Rescue
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
Compass Affordable Housing, Inc.
Cornucopia Community Advocates
Courtney’s Place
Creating the Future
Cultural Arts Coalition
D’Artz International
Downtown Radio
Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona
Eagles Wings of Grace, Int’l.
Earn to Learn
Elfrida Citizens Alliance Inc.
Empower International
Eve’s Place, Inc.
Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival
Flagstaff
Flinn Foundation
Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition, Inc. Pinetop-Lakeside
Friends of the Library - Kingman Friends of the San Pedro River
Gabriel's Angels
Global Youth Delegation For Peace and Tolerance Scottsdale
Graceful Fundraising, LLC Mesa
Growing Alternative Resource Development and Enterprise Network Tucson
Heritage Designs Phoenix
HR Foundations AZ Cave Creek
ICM Food & Clothing Bank Phoenix
Inspired Connections Phoenix
It Is, Inc. d/b/a 'Tis Prescott
Jewish Free Loan Phoenix
Kimetta Coleman Ministries Phoenix
Kingdom Philanthropy Cave Creek
Lead for Change Phoenix
Leading For Change Phoenix
Lighthouse Christian Community Church Phoenix
Literacy Connects Tucson
Living Streets Alliance Tucson
LPFM Downtown Tucson Tucson
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest Phoenix
Make Way for Books Tucson
Mesa United Way Mesa
Metropolitan Education Commission Tucson
Mi Familia Vota Education Fund Phoenix
Mount Zion Church Arizona City
My Heart His Palace Scottsdale
Christian International Ministries
NAMI Southern Arizona Tucson
Native Seeds/SEARCH Tucson
Neighbors Who Care, Inc. Sun Lakes
Network Life, LLC Tucson
Neurofit Networks Tucson
NPC Friends and Family Taylor
Old Pueblo Community Services Tucson
ONE - The Organization for Nonprofit Executives Litchfield Park
one n ten Phoenix
Our Family Services Tucson
Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry Safford
Phxca, Inc. Phoenix
Positive Paths Mesa
Prescott Meals On Wheels Prescott
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona Prescott Valley
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition Phoenix
Raise the Bar Consulting Phoenix
Read Better Be Better Fountain Hills
RelInventing ReEntry Tucson
Rossetti Consulting Group Tucson
Rotary Club of Tucson #1284 Tucson
Saguaro Foundation Tucson
Community Living Programs Yuma
Save the Family Foundation of AZ Mesa
Sky Island Alliance Tucson
Smith & Dale Philanthropic Counsel Tucson
Sonoran Glass School Tucson
Soroptimist International of Phoenix, Inc. Phoenix
Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center, SEAHEC, Inc. Tucson
St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance Phoenix
Stardust Non-Profit Building Supplies Mesa
Strategy + Tucson
Action/Philanthropy Tucson
Sue Sirkus, CFRE Tucson
Sustainable Economic Development Initiative of Northern Arizona Flagstaff
Take Charge America, Inc. Phoenix
TechTHiNQ Phoenix
Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services Tucson
The Bidstrup Foundation Paradise Valley
The Cagney Company Tempe
The David and Lura Lovell Foundation 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  
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