The Honorable Judy Chu  
2423 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chu:

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.  
A Place Called Home  
Abrams Consulting  
AchieveKids  
Agile Rascal Theatre  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center  
Alternatives in Action  
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  
Ann Martin Center  
Art Without Limits  
Asian Pacific Community Fund  
Assistance League of Palm Springs Desert Area  
Association of Fundraising Professionals, Orange County  
Baby2Baby  
Brooke Foundation Donor Advised Fund at RSF Foundation  
Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council  
C. S. Fund  
CA Destination Imagination  
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation  
California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits)  
California Council of Churches  
Palm Springs  
Los Angeles  
Santa Rosa  
San Francisco  
Oakland  
Ukiah  
Oakland  
Sacramento  
Cotati  
Emeryville  
Santa Barbara  
Los Angeles  
Runcho Mirage  
Santa Ana  
Los Angeles  
Chico  
Freestone  
Ventura  
San Francisco  
Sacramento  
California Council of Churches IMPACT  
California for Democracy  
California School-Age Consortium  
Cancer Care Network Foundation  
Catalina Island Museum Charities Housing  
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley  
Chinatown Service Center  
ChrisBooks Accounting  
Cinnabar Arts Corporation  
CLUE: Clergy & Laity United For Economic Justice  
Community Education Partnerships  
Community Foundation of the Valleys  
Community Medical Centers  
CompassPoint Nonprofit Services  
Compton Foundation  
Create Possibility  
Creativity Explored  
Crossroads, Inc.  
Crystal Springs Uplands School  
CS Fund  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation  
Desert Ability Center  
Digital Democracy  
Earle Baum Center of the Blind, Inc.  
Eddington Advisory Services  
Effective Nonprofits  
Eleanor Smith & Associates  
Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden  
Exponent Partners  
Facing History and Ourselves, Friends for Youth  
Sacramento  
Oakland  
Berkeley  
Los Angeles  
Avalon  
San Jose  
Los Angeles  
San Jose  
Los Angeles  
Fresno  
San Francisco  
Solana Beach  
San Francisco  
Claremont  
Hillsborough  
Freeston  
San Francisco  
La Quinta  
Oakland  
Mill Valley  
Palo Alto  
San Francisco  
San Francisco
Family Care Network, Inc.  
Family Resource Center of Truckee  
Family Service Association First Graduate  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Friedman Consulting  
Galileo Coaching  
Garfield Foundation  
Get Smart Africa  
Girls Inc. of Orange County Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees  
Greater Nonprofits  
Guimar Hiegert, CFRE & Associates  
Habitat for Humanity East Bay/ Silicon Valley  
Habitat for Humanity for San Luis Obispo County  
Habitat For Humanity Greater San Francisco, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County  
Health Connected  
Heart to Heart  
Heather Mack Consulting LLC  
Hoff Consulting  
Human Rights Data Analysis Group  
If/When/How  
Impact Young Adults  
InConcert Sierra  
Inland Valley Council of Churches d/b/a Inland Valley Hope Partners  
InspiraLaw  
Institute for Religious Tolerance, Peace and Justice  
International Community Foundation  
Inverness Associates  
Janis Brewer Consulting  
Jason Weiner Consulting  
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Long Beach & West Orange County  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
Junior League of San Diego  
Koreatown Youth and Community Center  
Krafty Marketing Solutions  
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church  
League of California Community Foundations  
LIFE ElderCare  
Life Skills Training and Educational Programs, Inc. - LifeSTEPS  
LifeRing Recovery  
Lighthouse Philanthropy Advisors  
Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly  
Live Oak Adult Day Services  
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Loveland Farm Sanctuary  
LSH Foundation  
Lupus LA  
March Field Air Museum  
Marcus Partners, LLC  
Maternal and Child Health Access  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, Inc.  
Mission Edge  
Mission Minded  
Mona Bismarck American Center  
Morgan Family Foundation  
Mosaic Consulting and Coaching  
Mountaintop Montessori  
Napa Valley Community Housing  
Nashashibi International Consultants, LLC  
Napa Valley Community Foundation  
National City  
Berkeley  
Oakland  
Sacramento  
San Luis Obispo  
Truckee  
Hemet  
San Francisco  
Concord  
Santa Barbara  
Lafayette  
Douala, Cameroon  
Costa Mesa  
San Luis Obispo  
San Francisco  
Santa Ana  
Redwood City  
Oakland  
Oakland  
San Francisco  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Long Beach  
San Diego  
San Diego  
Los Angeles  
Oakland  
Fremont  
Fair Oaks  
Berkeley  
San Jose  
Oakland  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Riverside  
Los Angeles  
Pacific Grove  
San Diego  
San Rafael  
Los Angeles  
San Jose  
Charlottesville  
Napa  
Laguna Hills
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
California

**Neighborhood Funders Group**
- Oakland
- San Francisco
- Los Angeles
- Sunnyvale
- Los Angeles
- Oakland
- San Francisco
- Eureka
- Huntington Beach
- San Mateo
- Los Angeles
- San Jose
- Los Angeles
- San Diego
- San Diego
- San Jose
- Venice
- Clovis
- San Jose
- Richmond
- Los Altos
- Sacramento
- Glendale

**San Diego Advocates for Social Justice**
**San Diego Public Library Foundation**
**San Diego Youth Symphony & Conservatory**
**San Luis Obispo Symphony**
**Santa Monica Conservancy**
**Santa Ynez Valley Arts Assoc.**
**SBCC Foundation**
**Seva Foundation**
**SF LGBT Center**
**Sierra HOPE**
**Sierra Repertory Theatre**
**Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange**
**Silicon Valley Community Foundation**
**Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits**
**So CA Center for Nonprofit Management**
**Solar Richmond**
**Somas Mayfair**
**South Asian Network**
**Southern California Center for Nonprofit Management**
**Speech and Language Development Center**
**St. Ignatius College Preparatory**
**Stapleton School of the Performing Arts**
**Strawberry Seals, Inc.**
**Surrogate Gallery Projects**
**Swift Foundation**
**Teen Success, Inc.**
**The 5 Gyres Institute**
**The American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine**
**The Christensen Fund**
**The David and Lucile Packard Foundation**
**The Dibble Institute**
**The Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden**
**The Fieldstone Foundation**
**The Lawrence Welk Family Foundation**

**neighborhood Funders**
- Oakland Museum of California
- Oakland Museum of California
- OneJustice
- Orange County United Way
- Pacific Community Ventures
- Pacific Links Foundation
- Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust
- Pasadena Conservatory of Music
- Paso Pacifico
- Patricia D. and William B. Smullin Foundation
- Patriots and Paws
- Peninsula Family Service
- Philanthropy California (a joint initiative of Northern California Grantmakers, San Diego Grantmakers, and Southern California Grantmakers)
- Point Foundation
- Pro Kids, The First Tee of San Diego
- Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
- Recovery Cafe San Jose Rediscover Center
- Regenerate California Innovation
- Respite and Research for Alzheimer's Disease
- Richmond Community Foundation
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Sacramento LGBT Community Center
- Sadlon & Associates, Inc.
The Nicholson Family Foundation  
The River Project  
Theresa Nelson & Associates  
Tides  
TR Brown Consulting  
TransForm  
Tri Valley Haven  
Tuleyome  
Unemployment Services Trust  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert  
United Way of Kern County  
United Ways of California  
Unleashing Generosity / Triskeles Foundation  
Vegan Outreach  
Vesper Society  
Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired  
Wave Foundation  
Waves of Gratefulness  
Weingart Foundation  
Western Methodist Justice Movement  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management  
WomenShelter of Long Beach  
Youssef and Kamel Mawardi Fund  
YWCA of North Orange County  

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 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  
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  

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
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