The Honorable Bradley Schneider  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schneider:

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,

Illinois

826CHI
Aging Care Connections
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Allow Good
Alternatives, Inc.
American College of Foot and
Ankle Surgeons
American Medical Association
Foundation
Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation
Arts Alliance Illinois
Association of Fundraising
Professionals - Chicago IL
Chapter
Baker McGee Consulting
Ballet 5:8
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago
Bridge Communities
Bright Promise Fund for Urban
Christian Education
Career Resource Center
Center for Independent Futures
Central States SER
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Community Loan Fund
Chicago Cultural Alliance
Chicago Dramatists
Chicago Global Health Alliance
Chicago Humanities Festival
Chicago Urban League
Child Care Center of Evanston
Children's Home Society of
America
Children's Neuroblastoma
Cancer Foundation
Children's Place Association
Church of the Brethren Benefit
Trust
College Bound Opportunities
Community Behavioral
Healthcare Association of
Illinois
CommunityHealth
Conant Family Foundation
Concordia Place
Connections for the Homeless
Creative Partners
Cristo Rey St. Martin College
Prep
Deborah's Place
Divine Sparks
Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award USA
DuPage Federation on Human
Services Reform
Ecker Center for Mental Health
Embarc
Erie Family Health Center
Erie Neighborhood House
Evanston Community
Foundation
Evanston Symphony Orchestra
Association
Executive Service Corps of
Chicago
Facing Forward to End
Homelessness
Family Bridges
Family Focus
Family Service and Mental
Health Center of Cicero
Forefront
Friends of Downtown
Friends of the Chicago River
Gene Siskel Film Center
George M. Pullman Educational
Foundation
GrantResources, LLC
Greater Chicago Food
Depository
Growing Home, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity Chicago
Habitat for Humanity of
Champaign County
Habitat for Humanity of
Northern Fox Valley
Harris Theater for Music and
Dance
High Concept Labs
| **Historic Chicago Bungalow Association** | Chicago | **Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation** | Oak Park |
| **Holy Family Ministries** | Lincolnshire | **Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council** | Palatine |
| **Housing Institute** | Bolingbrook | **PATH, Inc.** | Bloomington |
| **Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly (H.O.M.E.)** | Chicago | **Pierce Family Foundation** | LaGrange Park |
| **Hyde Park Art Center** | Chicago | **Polk Bros. Foundation** | Chicago |
| **Illinois Association of Museums** | Springfield | **Prevention Partnership, Inc.** | Chicago |
| **Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence** | Springfield | **QC Arts** | Rock Island |
| **Illinois Collaboration on Youth** | Chicago | **Quarles & Brady LLP** | Chicago |
| **Illinois Refugee and Immigrants Community Services** | Skokie | **RAD Remedy** | Chicago |
| **Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program** | Chicago | **S. Wolf and Associates** | Chicago |
| **IL-WI Sertoma Regional Center for Communicative Disorders** | Palos Hills | **Schield Family Foundation** | Wilmette |
| **IHR Resources** | Chicago | **Shelter Care Ministries** | Rockford |
| **JOURNEYS | The Road Home** | Palatine | **Sherrie Marchi Coaching** | Palatine |
| **KCCDD** | Galesburg | **Springfield Area Arts Council** | Springfield |
| **Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago** | Glenview | **St. Helena's Church** | Burr Ridge |
| **Land Conservancy of Will County** | Frankfort | **Swan Isle Press** | Chicago |
| **Latino Policy Forum** | Chicago | **Temaner and Associates** | Chicago |
| **Leukemia Research Foundation** | Chicago | **The Association of Consultants to Nonprofits** | Chicago |
| **Levine Partners** | Evanston | **The Chicago Music Consortium** | Chicago |
| **Life Quilt Foundation** | Chicago | **The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust** | Chicago |
| **Lincoln Park Zoo** | Chicago | **The Friendship Center** | Chicago |
| **Lumity** | Chicago | **The Harbour** | Park Ridge |
| **Lyons Township Mental Health Commission** | Chicago | **The Junior League of Chicago** | Chicago |
| **McAlpine Consulting for Growth, LLC** | Chicago | **The Land Conservancy of McHenry County** | Woodstock |
| **Mercy Home for Boys & Girls** | Chicago | **The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation** | Chicago |
| **MindsEye Radio** | Belleville | **The Seabury Foundation** | Chicago |
| **Mission of Our Lady of Mercy, Inc.** | Chicago | **United Way of Illinois** | Chicago |
| **Mom2MomDG** | Chicago | **US Green Building Council** | Hoffman Estates |
| **Mutual Ground, Inc.** | Aurora | **Us TOO International** | Des Plaines |
| **Naper Settlement** | Naperville | **Victory House, Discipleship for Women** | Chicago |
| **National Louis University** | Chicago | **VNA Foundation** | Chicago |
| **National Runaway Safeline** | Chicago | **Volunteers of America of Illinois** | Chicago |
| **NextLevelNPO, LLC** | Chicago | **Waukegan to College** | Waukegan |
| **Nineteenth Century Charitable Association** | Chicago | **Webster-Cantrell Hall** | Decatur |
| **Nonprofit-Partners** | Forest Park | **Westlawn Youth Network** | Chicago |
| **Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence** | Rockford | **Wheat Ridge Ministries** | Oak Park |
| **Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry** | Oak Park | **Wishnick & Associates** | Chicago |
| **Youth and Opportunity United** | Evanston | **Writers Theatre Inc.** | Glencoe |
| **Youth Outlook** | Naperville | **Youth Outreach Services, Inc.** | Chicago |
| **YWCA - Canton** | Canton | **YWCA - Elgin** | Elgin |
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
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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