Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
UPDATED March 9, 2018

The Honorable Bill Foster
1224 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foster:

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

UPDATE March 9, 2018
Page 4

YWCA - Kankakee
YWCA of the University of Illinois Champaign
ZION Development Corporation Rockford

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
OPERAs Arts Illinois 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