Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UPDATED March 9, 2018

The Honorable Bob Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

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,

New Jersey:

`Opio Haku Mo`olelo
A. L. Ball CPA
Above The Rim, Inc. of Newark
Advance Housing, Inc.
Agraj Seva Kendra
Algonquin Arts Theatre
Allies In Caring, Inc.
American Association of Teachers of German
American Atheists
Anathoth Foundation
Angels For Action, Inc.
ANJEC
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey
Art House Productions
ArtZwag
Associate Alumnae of Douglass College
Bayshore Family of Companies
BazanED
Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative
Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County
Camden Area Health Education Center
Capacity Building and Policy Experts
Carolyn Dorfman Dance
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Jersey, Inc.
CASA Shaw
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Center for Non-Profits
Center for Regenerative Community Solutions
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Chen Dance Company
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc.
Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation
Christ Episcopal Church
Christ the King Preparatory School
Clean Ocean Action, Inc.
Clear, Effective Communications
Community Outreach Services, Inc.
Community Planning & Advocacy Council
Concerned Persons for Adoption
COPE
Council of New Jersey Grantmakers
CPFANJ
Creative Capacity
Creative Communications
Creative New Jersey
CUMAC
D.G. McDermott Associates, LLC
David's Shoes A NJ Nonprofit Corporation
Delaware Valley Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Dress for Success Morris County
Edison Greenways Group, Inc.
Educational Arts Team
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless
Fabian Consulting, Inc.
Family and Children's Services
Family Promise of Warren County, Inc.
Englewood Cliffs
Paramus
Island Heights
Glen Ridge
Highlands
Jersey City
Paterson
Summit
Trenton
Garwood
Edison
Paterson
Red Bank
Irvington
Clayton
Edison
Jersey City
Elizabeth
Hightstown
Oxford
Financial Wellness Institute | Kessler Foundation | East Hanover
First Congregational Church of Montclair | Kids Corporation II | Newark
Foster and Adoptive Family Services | KinderSmile Foundation | Bloomfield
FRA | Literacy Volunteers of America - Monmouth County | Long Branch
Freedom Center for Wildlife, Inc. | Love of Jesus Food Pantry | Paterson
Friends of Ortley Beach | Lumbar Journey Healing Ministries, LLC | Red Bank
Fylstra & Associates, LLC | Magical Healing | Wayne
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation | Marcia Smith Fleres LLC | Plainsboro
GlassRoots | Marie Adelaide Center / Adelaide's Place | Atlantic City
GreggSmith.com, Inc. | Maushumi Nerurkar | Belle Mead
Gubarry, Inc. | MGR Counseling, LLC | Camden
Heightened Independence & Progress (hip) | Mi Casita Day Care Center, Inc. | Camden
Histiocytosis Association | Monmouth Conservation Foundation | Middletown
HITOPS, Inc. | Morris Arts | Morristown
hob'art co-operative gallery | Morris County Historical Society | Morris Plains
Holiday Express | My Eternal Family | Mount Laurel
Home Care Options | NAMI Camden County | PARAMUS
HomeFront | Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies | Short Hills
Homeless Solutions, Inc. | New Eyes for the Needy | New Jersey
Hope Community Outreach | New Jersey Association of Community Providers | New Jersey
Housing and Neighborhood Development Services (HANDS), Inc. | New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. | Mercerville
Hudson County Housing Resource Center | New Jersey Association on Correction | Trenton
Hudson Pride Connections Center | New Jersey Community Capital | New Brunswick
Hudson River Apiary Society | New Jersey Future | Trenton
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation | New Jersey Policy Perspective | Morristown
Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss | New Jersey Association of Public Health | Piscataway
Interfaith Hospitality Network - Essex | New Jersey SHAREs, Inc. | Ewing
Ironbound Community Corporation | JCDTOC, Inc. | Jersey Battered Women's Service
Jersey Central Theatre Company | Cherry Hill | Cherry Hill
Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Jersey State Museum Foundation</th>
<th>Trenton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Theatre Alliance</td>
<td>West Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster</td>
<td>Kenilworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Youth Development Foundation</td>
<td>Mahwah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York-New Jersey Trail Conference</td>
<td>Newark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark LGBTQ Community Center</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Scotch Plains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ State Association of Jewish Federations</td>
<td>Phillipsburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOFA-NJ</td>
<td>Toms River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORWESCAP</td>
<td>Irvington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean's Harbor House oneCommunityConnect Outpost in the Burbs, Inc.</td>
<td>Montclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise Consulting Partners for Health Foundation</td>
<td>Montclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners for Women and Justice</td>
<td>Montclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pascale Sykes Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson Alliance</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson Education Fund</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson Task Force for Community Action, Inc.</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peg Wright Perth Amboy Artworks, Inc.</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey</td>
<td>Perth Amboy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR Quickhelp Nonprofit Consulting and Coaching</td>
<td>Somerville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise Consulting Prime for Results International</td>
<td>Red Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton AlumniCorps Pro Arts Jersey City</td>
<td>Princeton, Jersey City, Camden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican Unity for Progress Pushcart Players</td>
<td>Jersey City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Education Awareness by Latinos in Teaneck</td>
<td>Skillman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Brook School Rutgers Institute for Ethical Leadership</td>
<td>Newark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers TEEM Gateway Sammy's Hope, Inc.</td>
<td>Camden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalera Consulting Services Seashore Family Services of NJ</td>
<td>Sayreville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Service Association of Ridgewood and Vicinity Society For Preservation of Continued Homeownership</td>
<td>Bloomfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society In The Ekos, Inc. Sojihuggles Childrens Foundation</td>
<td>Brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable West Milford Tabernacle of Faith Church Team Management 2000, Inc.</td>
<td>Hackensack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul's Community Development Corporation St. Peter's Haven</td>
<td>Paterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.</td>
<td>Clifton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabernacle of Faith Church Team Management 2000, Inc.</td>
<td>Hewitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Atlantic Foundation The Center for Contemporary Art</td>
<td>Hackensack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Enrichment Center for Women, Children &amp; Families, Inc.</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fund for New Jersey The Growing Stage - The Children's of New Jersey</td>
<td>Netcong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New School for Music Study</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parkinson Alliance The Women's Center</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Women's Center</td>
<td>Linwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trenton Area Soup Kitchen</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple C Housing, Inc.</td>
<td>Monmouth Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ</td>
<td>Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Central Jersey</td>
<td>Milltown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University-NOW Day Nursery</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Foundation</td>
<td>Newark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ</td>
<td>Forked River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtua</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts Center of New Jersey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers of America Delaware Valley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHYSaveALife Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Aware, Inc.</td>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Who Never Give Up, Inc.</td>
<td>Moorestown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>Medford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans for the Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans Promoting Study Abroad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans United for Separation of Church and State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amyloidosis Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Legal Defense Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie E. Casey Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Defamation League</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association for Jewish Outreach Professionals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of American Colleges and Universities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Art Museum Directors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Fundraising Professionals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Immunization Managers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Nature Center Administrators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Women in Ministry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barr Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BoardSource</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brady Campaign and Center to Prevent Gun Violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Fire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campion Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Mobilizing Network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Health, Environment &amp; Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Inquiry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Stewart Mott Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CleanSlateNow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Foundations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council for Global Equality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia Society, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination &amp; Travel Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietel Partners, LLC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Advocacy Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Seals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology Project International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Conferences International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Relief &amp; Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed the Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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