The Honorable Donald Payne  
132 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Representative Payne:

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 Branchburg
A. L. Ball CPA Somerset
Above The Rim, Inc. of Newark
Advance Housing, Inc. Teterboro
Agraj Seva Kendra Monroe Township
Algonquin Arts Theatre Manasquan
Allies In Caring, Inc. Hammonton
American Association of Teachers of German Cherry Hill
American Atheists Cranford
Anathtoh Foundation Plainfield
Angels For Action, Inc. Mendham
ANJEC
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey
Art House Productions Jersey City
ArtZwag
Associate Alumnae of Douglass College New Brunswick
Bayshore Family of Companies Keasbey
BazanED Hackensack
Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative Lawrenceville
Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County Camden
Camden Area Health Education Center Pennington
Capacity Building and Policy Experts Union
Carolyn Dorfman Dance New Brunswick
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Jersey, Inc. Washington
CASA Shaw Trenton
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton Basking Ridge
Center for Non-Profits North Brunswick
Center for Regenerative Community Solutions
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Chen Dance Company Englewood Cliffs
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. Paramus
Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation
Christ Episcopal Church Island Heights
Christ the King Preparatory School Glen Ridge
Clean Ocean Action, Inc. Highlands
Clear, Effective Communications Jersey City
Community Outreach Services, Inc. Paterson
Community Planning & Advocacy Council Summit
Concerned Persons for Adoption
COPE Trenton
Council of New Jersey Grantmakers Garwood
CPFANJ Edison
Creative Capacity Paterson
Creative Communications Red Bank
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. Edison
Educational Arts Team Jersey City
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless Elizabeth
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless Hightstown
Fabian Consulting, Inc.
Family and Children's Services
Family Promise of Warren County, Inc. Oxford
<p>| Family Resource Associates, Inc. | Jewish Renaissance Foundation | Perth Amboy |
| Family Service Association | Kessler Foundation | East Hanover |
| Financial Wellness Institute | Kids Corporation II | Newark |
| First Congregational Church of Montclair | KinderSmile Foundation | Bloomfield |
| Foster and Adoptive Family Services | Literacy Volunteers of America - Monmouth County | Long Branch |
| FRA | Love of Jesus Food Pantry Ministries, LLC | Paterson |
| Freedom Center for Wildlife, Inc. | Lumbar Journey Healing | Red Bank |
| Friends of Ortley Beach | Magical Healing | Wayne |
| Fylstra &amp; Associates, LLC | Manufactured Home Owners Association of New Jersey, Inc. | Plainsboro |
| Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation | Marcia Smith Fleres LLC | Atlantic City |
| GlassRoots | Marie Adelaide Center / Adelaide's Place | Belle Mead |
| GreggSmith.com, Inc. | Maushumi Nerurkar | Camden |
| Gubarry, Inc. | MGR Counseling, LLC | Camden |
| Heightened Independence &amp; 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 | New Eyes for the Needy | Short Hills |
| HomeFront | New Jersey Association of Community Providers | Trenton |
| Homeless Solutions, Inc. | New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. | Trenton |
| Hope Community Outreach | New Jersey Association on Correction | Trenton |
| Housing and Neighborhood Development Services (HANDS), Inc. | New Jersey Community Capital | New Brunswick |
| Hudson County Housing Resource Center | New Jersey Future | Trenton |
| Hudson Pride Connections Center | New Jersey Policy Perspective | Morristown |
| Hudson River Apiary Society | New Jersey Public Health Association | Piscataway |
| Hyacinth AIDS Foundation | New Jersey SHARES, Inc. | Ewing |
| Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss | | |</p>
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United Way of Central Jersey  Milltown
University-NOW Day Nursery  Princeton
Victoria Foundation  Newark
Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ  Forked River
Virtua
Visual Arts Center of New Jersey  Summit
Volunteers of America Delaware Valley  Collingswood
Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts  Berkeley Heights
WHYSaveALife Foundation  Morristown
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  New Brunswick
Women Aware, Inc.  Moorestown
Women Who Never Give Up, Inc.
Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge  Medford
Woodlands Wildlife Refuge  North

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
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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
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Center for Inquiry
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Citizen Schools
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Commonwealth Fund
Council on Foundations
Council for Global Equality
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Dietel Partners, LLC
Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
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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
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National Association of Watch and Collectors
National Association for Shoplifting Prevention
NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Center for Appropriate Technology
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National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
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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