The Honorable Jim B. Renacci  
328 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Renacci:

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,

Ohio
Action for Children
Affecting Community Transformation d/b/a Oasis House
Aikey Foundation, Inc.
Akron Community Foundation
Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions
Bethany House Services
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby & Darke County
Bryan Area Foundation
Business for Peace Community Development Foundation (B4P CODEFOUND)
Cancer Patient Services Circle of Peace International City Year Columbus Clark County Historical Society
Cleveland Zoological Society Cogswell Hall, Inc.
Columbus School for Girls Community Foundation of Lorain County Community Kitchen Corporation for Findlay Market Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development Crime Victim Services Daybreak Dayton Foundation Disability Foundation, Inc. Dobama Theatre Dublin Arts Council E&L Company Early Childhood Resource Center Easter Seals Serving Greater Cincinnati Edheads Columbus Dayton Wellington Akron Yellow Springs Cincinnati Sidney Bryan Blacklick Findlay Marietta Columbus Springfield Cleveland Cleveland Columbus Elyria Columbus Cincinnati Lima Dayton Dayton Dayton Cleveland Heights Dublin Youngstown Canton Cincinnati Hilliard Equitas Health Far West Center Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center Food For Thought Franciscan Earth Literacy Center Friends of the Cultural Arts Center Glacity Theatre Collective Goodwill Columbus Green Hills Community Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity, Mid-Ohio Hannah's Treasure Chest Harmony Project Havar, Inc. Homeport House of New Hope Housing Research & Advocacy Center Humility of Mary Housing Jarvis Gibson Foundation Kendal at Granville Lake Erie Swimming LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland LifeSpan Mobile Meals of Toledo, Inc. Morino Ventures, LLC Multifaith Campus Alliance of the Miami Valley Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra Non Profit Evolution Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies Ohio Association of Foodbanks Columbus West Lake
Columbus Chagrin Falls Toledo
Tiffin Columbus Columbus West Liberty
Cincinnati Columbus Centerville Columbus Athens Columbus Saint Louisville Columbus Granville Hamilton Toledo
Rocky River Dayton Cleveland Newark Columbus Columbus Columbus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship</th>
<th>Ohio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations - OANO</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio CDC Association</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Domestic Violence Network</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Environmental Council</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio League For Nursing</td>
<td>North Olmsted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Valley Recovery Incorporated</td>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry County Soccer League</td>
<td>Crooksville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philanthropy Ohio</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Properties, Inc.</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sears-Swetland Family Foundation</td>
<td>Bratenah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds of Hope</td>
<td>Tiffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sisters of St. Francis</td>
<td>Tiffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth</td>
<td>Delphos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis Spirituality Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonewall Columbus</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StriveTogether</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Central Ohio Symphony</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Community Foundation for Crawford County</td>
<td>Bucyrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dakota Center</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Foodbank, Inc.</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gathering Place</td>
<td>Beachwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The George Gund Foundation</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Problem Gambling Network of Ohio</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sindisa Fund</td>
<td>Hillsboro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The UpTown Association, Inc.</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo Ballet</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo Community Foundation</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitions, Inc.</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Disability Services</td>
<td>Zanesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Gallia County</td>
<td>Akron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Greater Cleveland</td>
<td>Gallipolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Medina County</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Summit County</td>
<td>Medina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Williams County</td>
<td>Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSA Ohio</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Side Catholic Center</td>
<td>Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WomenSafe</td>
<td>Chardon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Alliance</td>
<td>Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Dayton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Greater Cincinnati</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA of Hamilton, OH</td>
<td>West Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Warren</td>
<td>Warren</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 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
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

Ohio

UPDATED September 5, 2017

Page 4

Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Nature Center Administrators
Astrea 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 for 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
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
Ohio
UPDATE September 5, 2017
Page 5

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