The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blumenauer:

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,

Oregan

Alano Club of Portland  Portland
Alisa Blum & Associates  Portland
Anne E. Denecke, PC  Portland
Birthway College of Midwifery  Portland
Breast Friends, Oregon Cancer Certification Council  Portland
Casa of Oregon  Sherwood
Cascades Raptor Center  Eugene
Cat Adoption Team  Sherwood
Children’s Advocacy Center of Lincoln County  Newport
Chinquapin Center for the Arts  Grants Pass
Coalition Advocating for Animals  Salem
Coastal Celtic Society  Coos Bay
Cogo  Portland
College Dreams  Grants Pass
Columbia Pacific Food Bank  Portland
Community Housing Fund  Grants Pass
Community Warehouse  Beaverton
Cornerstone Community Housing  Eugene
Cottage Theatre  Cottage Grove
Creswell at Home, Inc.  Creswell
CtThompson Consulting  Eugene
Dana L Brown Consulting  Portland
Delgani String Quartet  Eugene
Donate Life Northwest  Portland
Eastco Diversified Services, Inc.  Gresham
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  Portland
F.I.N.F.I.D. International Foundation  Portland
Facilitation & Process, LLC  Portland
Four Rivers Health Care  Portland
Friendly House  Portland
Friends Of South Slough  Coos Bay
Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge  Sherwood
Friends of the West Slope Library  Portland
Fritz Consulting  Bend
Give Voice  Portland
Go To Help, LLC  Portland
Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington  Portland
Grants Pass Museum of Art  Grants Pass
Grounded Solutions Network  Portland
Health Care for All-Oregon  Bend
Heart of Oregon Corps  Troutdale
In This Together  Portland
Itching to Help! NPC  Forest Grove
Jayne Cravens, Consultant  McMinnville
Juliette’s House Child Abuse Intervention Center  Portland
La Pine Community Kitchen  La Pine
Lake County Resources Initiative  Lakeview
Laudato si' USA  Portland
Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School  Portland
Lora & Martin Kelley Family Foundation  Portland
MacKenzie Community Track & Field  Vida
Main Street Mosier  Mosier
Meals on Wheels People  Portland
Meyer Memorial Trust  Portland
Molalla Warming Center  Molalla
Mosaic Consulting  Portland
Mother Teresa Home d/b/a Magdalene Home  Medford
Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp  Portland
Mylen Shenker, CPA  Portland
National Indian Child Welfare Association  Portland
Nec Coalition of Neighborhoods  Portland
Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity  Newberg
Nonprofit Association of Oregon  Portland
### Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

**Oregon**

**UPDATED** September 5, 2017

**Page 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest College of the Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Pilot Project, Inc.</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONABEN</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Food Bank</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Tilth</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OregonASK</td>
<td>Wilsonville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORI Community and Evaluation Services</td>
<td>Eugene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for Parks Oregon</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Finance</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Rising Transitions</td>
<td>Gresham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland Homeless Family Solutions</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razia Roushan, Inc.</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Northwest</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returning Veterans Project</td>
<td>Beaverton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogue Valley Chorale Association</td>
<td>Rogue River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogue Valley Youth Choruses</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSE Community Development</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shangri La Corporation</td>
<td>Salem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverton Together, Inc.</td>
<td>Silverton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Syncopated Drumming</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sojourner Education Foundation</td>
<td>Milwaukie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon Child and Family Council</td>
<td>Central Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPOON</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Society Tanker 61 Memorial</td>
<td>Roseburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ford Family Foundation</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Learning Commons</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Museum At Warm Springs</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center</td>
<td>Portland</td>
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<tr>
<td>THSC</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom McCall Legacy Project Transition Projects</td>
<td>Milwaukie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Columbia County</td>
<td>Portland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernonia Hands on Art Center</td>
<td>Rainier</td>
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<td>Wellsprings Friends School Art Center</td>
<td>Vernonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Arts Alliance</td>
<td>Eugene</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 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 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
National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation
National Runaway Safeline
National Safe Place Network
National Tongan American Society