Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
UPDATED September 5, 2017

The Honorable Scott Perry
1207 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Perry:

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,

### Pennsylvania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Woman's Concern</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Centre Wildlife Care</td>
<td>Lemont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLAMO Family Centers</td>
<td>Norristown</td>
<td>Chester County Historical Society</td>
<td>West Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Lansdale</td>
<td>Christian Youth Fellowship, Inc.</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFP-Greater Philadelphia Chapter</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Civic Square</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny County Library Association</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Colcom Foundation</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Insight</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>COMMON Education Foundation</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Heritage Center Foundation</td>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>Commonwealth Youth Choirs</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auberle</td>
<td>McKeesport</td>
<td>Communities In Schools of the Lehigh Valley</td>
<td>Breinigsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora Philanthropic Consulting, LLC</td>
<td>King of Prussia</td>
<td>Coro Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced Heart Healing Center, Inc.</td>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>Cotlar and Cotlar</td>
<td>Doylestown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>Dementia Society, Inc.</td>
<td>Doylestown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berks Community Action Program, Inc.</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>DePaul School for Hearing and Speech</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berks County Community Foundation</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Development Consultants</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond Celiac</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Diversity in Action</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bower &amp; Co.</td>
<td>Allentown</td>
<td>Donald and Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center</td>
<td>West Reading</td>
<td>Don't Stop Dreamin'</td>
<td>Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Downtown Lewistown, Inc.</td>
<td>Lewistown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother's Brother Foundation</td>
<td>Ivyland</td>
<td>Elayne Howard &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Scranton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucks County Housing Group</td>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>Employment Opportunity and Training Center of Northeast Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butler YWCA</td>
<td>Windber</td>
<td>Energize, Inc.</td>
<td>Williamsport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin's Smiles</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Family Promise of Lyco County</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary United Methodist Church of Windber PA</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Wilkes-Barre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Koala</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Family Service of Chester County</td>
<td>West Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casita Copan</td>
<td>State College</td>
<td>Family Services of Western PA</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Literacy, World Affairs Council</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Fishes &amp; Loaves Cooperative Ministries</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Pennsylvania Food Bank</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Frankford Community Development Corporation</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre County Women's Resource Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free Library of Philadelphia</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

We hope you will share this letter and join us in these efforts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Pennsylvania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>KenCrest Blue Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Fiduciary Corporation</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Kennett Area Senior Center Kennett Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of SummerSounds Genesee Area Library</td>
<td>Greensburg</td>
<td>Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America Sharpsburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genuardi Family Foundation</td>
<td>Blue Bell</td>
<td>Kutztown Community Partnership Kutztown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia E. Gregory Interdenominational School of Music</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Lancaster County Community Foundation Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Foerd Conservation Corporation</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Lancaster Farmland Trust Strasburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Connections Global Links</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Laurel Foundation Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantmakers of Western PA Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>Lawrence County Habitat for Humanity Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Development Center Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Chester County Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Coatesville</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Alexander Laughlin Children's Center Sewickley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, PA Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area Harbor Compliance</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Melanie Dante, Consultant Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazleton Area Public Library Historic Sugartown, Inc. Hollow Oak Land Trust Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania Impact100 Philadelphia InfoRich Group, Inc. Inglis Inter-Mission International Performing Arts for Youth Jazz Bridge Project Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg Junior League of the Lehigh Valley Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund</td>
<td>Hazleton Malvern Moon Township</td>
<td>Greater Philadelphia Montgomery Early Learning Centers Phoenixville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Moravian Open Door, Inc. Musicopia Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nazareth Housing Services New Castle Community Y New Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Northland Public Library Foundation Newport Public Library Newport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Outreach Teen &amp; Family Services Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PA Campus Compact Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PA Mental Health Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consumers' Association Harrisburg PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Partnership for Better Health Carisle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
Pennsylvania

Updated September 5, 2017
Page 4

Pearl S. Buck International
Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates
Philly Fellows
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Phoenixville Area Community Services
Pinebrook Family Answers
Pleasantville United Church of Christ
Plum Senior Community Center
Praise Consulting
Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg
Renew Theaters, Inc.
Richard Erstad Consulting
Robert Johnson Smith Family Life Center
Roots Tribe Yoga
Rosenlund Family Foundation
Samara: Nurture and Education for Parents
Schuylkill Women in Crisis
SeeChange Consulting
Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center (SARCC)
Sisters of Mercy
Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province
SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice
Starfinder Foundation
Strategy Solutions
Tabor Community Services TeamChildren
The Alfred & Mary Douty Foundation
The Bodhana Group
The Burd Group
The Children's Museum
The Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage
The Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation
Perkasie
Harrisburg
State College
Ulysses
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Phoenixville
Allentown
Chalfont
Plum
Langhorne
Carlisle
Doylestown
Ardmore
Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Elizabethtown
Pottsville
Philadelphia
Lebanon
Pittsburgh
Chambersburg
Philadelphia
Erie
Lancaster
Audubon
Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Philadelphia

The Florencia M Mack Educational Fund
The HBE Foundation
The Lectionary Company
The Luzerne Foundation
The Merchants Fund
The University of the Arts
The Untours Foundation
Tick Tock Early Learning Center
Transitions of PA
TriCounty Active Adult Center
Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
United Way of Adams County
United Way of Beaver County
United Way of Blair County
United Way of Butler County
United Way of Erie County
United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties
United Way of Lancaster County
United Way of Mifflin-Juniata County
United Way of Pennsylvania
United Way of York County, PA
Valerie M. Jones Associates
Waverly Community House
Women Against Abuse
Women for Sobriety
Women's Resource Center
Women's Way
York Day Nursery
YWCA Bradford
YWCA Greater Pittsburgh
YWCA Northcentral PA
YWCA Tri-County Area
YWCA York

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
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

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
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