Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
UPDATED September 5, 2017

The Honorable Patrick L. Meehan Jr.
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meehan:

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

A Woman's Concern
ACLAMO Family Centers
Acquired Brain Injury
Network of Pennsylvania
AFP-Greater Philadelphia
Chapter
Allegheny County Library
Association
American Insight
Army Heritage Center
Foundation
Auberle
Aurora Philanthropic
Consulting, LLC
Balanced Heart Healing
Center, Inc.
Beacon Clinic for Health and
Hope
Berks Community Action
Program, Inc.
Berks County Community
Foundation
Beyond Celiac
Bower & Co.
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT
Community Center
Breast Cancer Support
Services of Berks
Brother's Brother
Foundation
Bucks County Housing
Group
Butler YWCA
Caitlin's Smiles
Calvary United Methodist
Church of Windber PA
Camp Koala
Casita Copan
Center for Literacy, World
Affairs Council
Central Pennsylvania Food
Bank
Centre County Women's
Resource Center
Lancaster
Norristown
Lansdale
Lansdale
Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Carlisle
McKeesport
King of Prussia
Mars
Harrisburg
Reading
Reading
Allentown
West Reading
Pittsburgh
Ivyland
Butler
Windber
Kingston
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia

Centre Wildlife Care
Chester County Historical
Society
Christian Youth Fellowship,
Inc.
Civic Square
Colcom Foundation
COMMON Education
Foundation
Commonwealth Youth
Choirs
Communities In Schools of
the Lehigh Valley
Coro Pittsburgh
Cotlar and Cotlar
Dementia Society, Inc.
DePaul School for Hearing
and Speech
Development Consultants
Dignity Housing
Diversity in Action
Donald and Sylvia Robinson
Family Foundation
Don't Stop Dreamin'
Downtown Lewistown, Inc.
Elayne Howard & Associates
Employment Opportunity
and Training Center of
Northeast Pennsylvania
Energize, Inc.
Family Promise of Lyco
County
Family Service Association
of Northeastern
Pennsylvania
Family Service of Chester
County
Family Services of Western
PA
Fishes & Loaves
Cooperative Ministries
Frankford Community
Development Corporation
Free Library of Philadelphia

Lemont
West Chester
Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Breinigsville
Pittsburgh
Doylestown
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
Scranton
Philadelphia
Williamsport
Wilkes-Barre
West Chester
Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization NAME</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 Georgia E. Gregory Interdenominational School of Music</td>
<td>Blue Bell</td>
<td>Kutztown Community Partnership Kutztown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Foerd Conservation Corporation</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Lancaster County Community Foundation Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Links</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Lancaster Farmland Trust Strasburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantmakers of Western PA Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>Laurel Foundation Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Lawrence County Habitat for Humanity Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County</td>
<td>Duquesne</td>
<td>Leadership Centre County State College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Chester County</td>
<td>Chalfont</td>
<td>Leadership York York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Coatesville</td>
<td>Lodge Life Services, Inc. Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, PA</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition Williamsport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area Harbor Compliance</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>Manchester Youth Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazleton Area Public Library Historic Sugartown, Inc.</td>
<td>Hazleton</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Alexander Laughlin Children's Center Sewickley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollow Oak Land Trust Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Malvern</td>
<td>Melanie Dante, Consultant New Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact100 Philadelphia InfoRich Group, Inc.</td>
<td>Moon Township</td>
<td>Mom's House, Inc. of Greater Philadelphia Phoenixville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inglis Inter-Mission</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>Haverford</td>
<td>Nazareth Housing Services Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drexel Hill</td>
<td>New Castle Community Y New Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Newport Public Library Newport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narberth</td>
<td>Northland Public Library Foundation Wexford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Opportunity Fund Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glenside</td>
<td>Outreach Teen &amp; Family Services Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>PA Campus Compact Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PA Mental Health Harrisburg PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consumers' Association Harrisburg PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Partnership for Better Health Carlisle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UPDATED September 5, 2017
Page 4

| Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations | Perkasie |
| Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light | Harrisburg |
| Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates | State College |
| Philly Fellows | Ulysses |
| Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens | Philadelphia |
| Phoenixville Area Community Services | Pittsburgh |
| Pinebrook Family Answers | Phoenixville |
| Pleasantville United Church of Christ | Allentown |
| Plum Senior Community Center | Chalfont |
| Praise Consulting | Plum |
| Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg | Langhorne |
| Renew Theaters, Inc. | Carlisle |
| Richard Erstad Consulting | Doylestown |
| Robert Johnson Smith Family Life Center | Ardmore |
| Roots Tribe Yoga | Philadelphia |
| Rosenlund Family Foundation | Philadelphia |
| Samara: Nurture and Education for Parents | Lebanon |
| Schuylkill Women in Crisis | Pittsburgh |
| SeeChange Consulting | Philadelphia |
| Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center (SARCC) | Chambersburg |
| Sisters of Mercy | Philadelphia |
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province | Erie |
| SpiritTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice | Lancaster |
| Starfinder Foundation | Audubon |
| Strategy Solutions | Philadelphia |
| Tabor Community Services | Ephrata |
| TeamChildren | Bloomsburg |
| The Alfred & Mary Douty Foundation | Mercersburg |
| The Bodhana Group | Media |
| The Burd Group | |
| The Children’s Museum | |
| The Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage | |
| The Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation | |
| The Florencia M Mack Educational Fund | Philadelphia |
| The HBE Foundation | Bryn Mawr |
| The Lectionary Company | Philadelphia |
| The Luzerne Foundation | Wilkes-Barre |
| The Merchants Fund | Philadelphia |
| The University of the Arts | Philadelphia |
| The Untours Foundation | Media |
| Tick Tock Early Learning Center | Avondale |
| Transitions of PA | Lewisburg |
| TriCounty Active Adult Center | Pottstown |
| Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living | Washington |
| United Way of Adams County | Gettysburg |
| United Way of Beaver County | Monaca |
| United Way of Blair County | Altoona |
| United Way of Butler County | Butler |
| United Way of Erie County | Erie |
| United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties | Scranton |
| United Way of Lancaster County | Lancaster |
| United Way of Mifflin-Juniata | Lewistown |
| United Way of Pennsylvania | |
| United Way of York County, PA | York |
| Valerie M. Jones Associates | Media |
| Waverly Community House | Waverly |
| Women Against Abuse | Philadelphia |
| Women for Sobriety | |
| Women's Resource Center | Wayne |
| Women's Way | Philadelphia |
| York Day Nursery | York |
| YWCA Bradford | Bradford |
| YWCA Greater Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh |
| YWCA Northcentral PA | Williamsport |
| YWCA Tri-County Area | Pottstown |
| YWCA York | 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
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