The Honorable Shelia Jackson Lee  
2187 Rayburn House Office Building  
United State House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson Lee:

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,

**Texas**

- Abbe & Associates: Fundraising and Nonprofit Consultants, Arlington
- Abell Photography, Abilene
- All Blind Children of Texas, Austin
- Alley Theatre, Houston
- Amarillo Habitat for Humanity, Dallas
- American Heart Association, San Antonio
- Americans United for Separation of Church & State, Austin
- Andrew Delaney Foundation, Austin
- Arts Council of Midland, Midland
- Associated Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of Texas, Inc., Buda
- Austin Habitat for Humanity, Austin
- Bay Area Turning Point, Inc., San Antonio
- BEST of Texas Robotics, Plano
- Bexar County Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc., San Antonio
- Big Medium
- Brazos Bend Guardianship Services, Rosenberg
- Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity, Bryan
- Caritas of Austin
- Chavisjah Supportive Services, Missouri City
- Children Helpers Foundations, Cape Coast
- Christian Women's Job Corps of El Paso
- Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
- Community Integrated Employment
- Congregation Agudas Achim
- Cultivating Leaders Achieving Scholastic Success
- Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society
- Dallas Parks Foundation, Dallas
- disABILITYsa, San Antonio
- El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission
- Equity for Women in the Church, Inc.
- Fellowship Southwest
- For the Children, Inc., d/b/a Arts & Entertainment 4 DFW Youths
- Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity
- Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity
- Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
- Foundation Communities
- Girl Scouts of Central Texas
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas
- Granny's Place Ministries
- GrantBook
- Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet
- Gulf Coast Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity Abilene, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity Denton County
- Habitat for Humanity of Grayson County
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Garland
- Habitat for Humanity of San Angelo
- Habitat for Humanity of Smith County
- Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County, Texas, Inc.
- Hardin-Simmons University Hero Dogs, Inc.
- Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas
- House of Hope, Inc.
- Houston Children Give Back
- Houston Habitat for Humanity
- IT'S TIME TEXAS
- San Antonio
- Austin
- Dallas
- Coppell
- Plano
- Stafford
- Killeen
- Fort Worth
- Austin
- Dallas
- Duncanville
- Galveston
- Abilene
- Denton
- Sherman
- Garland
- San Angelo
- Tyler
- Abilene
- Grapevine
- San Antonio
- Glenn Heights
- Houston
- Austin
Join Us For Justice, the El Paso Chapter of Americans United
Journal of the History of Ideas, Inc.
Latinitas
Launch Pad Job Club
LevelUp Institute
Lions Club International
Literacy Advance of Houston
Live Theatre League of Tarrant County
Longview Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
Madeleine Crouch & Co., Inc.
Malone Law Firm
Midland Habitat for Humanity
Mission Granbury Inc.
North Collin County Habitat for Humanity
One Voice Central Texas
Oralia Lichtenberger
Pasadena Habitat for Humanity
Pastors for Texas Children
Peace of Christ Church
REACH
Resource Center
Rio Bravo Wildlife Institute
SA Leadership Excel Academy
San Antonio Lighthouse For The Blind
Sewa International
Sexual Assault Resource Center
Social Velocity
South Main Baptist Church, Houston
South Texas Literacy Coalition
Standish Foundation for Child & Family Centered Healthcare
State of Texas Alliance for Recycling
Swan Songs
Taps 'n Tunes Productions, Inc.
Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Texas Baptists Committed
Texas One Voice d/b/a One Voice Texas
Texoma Health Foundation
The Arc of Fort Bend County
The Awty International School
The Baby Stewart Foundation
The Fallen Linemen Organization
The Gleaning Network of Texas d/b/a GROW North Texas
The Montrose Center
Thousands Watching
Trinity Center
United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County
United Way of Greater Houston
United Way of Mid & South Jefferson County
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County
Vision Weavers Consulting, LLC
Vitage Group 3627
Volunteers of America Texas
Waco Habitat for Humanity
Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Austin
Young Women's Christian Association of San Antonio, TX
YWCA of Lubbock

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 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