The Honorable Gwen Moore  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moore:

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,

**Wisconsin**

Advocates of Ozaukee, Saukville
ArtWorks for Milwaukee, Milwaukee
Association for Pelvic Organ Prolapse Support, Mukwonago
AVK Education, Inc., Glendale
Biodynamic Association, East Troy
Broadscope Disability Services, Greenfield
Brookhill Institute of Mathematics, Waukesha
Burleigh Street Community Development, Inc., Milwaukee
Center for Media and Democracy, Milwaukee
Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd., Milwaukee
Chippewa Area Mentor Program, Chippewa Falls
Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance, Eau Claire
Common Ground Ministry, Inc., Milwaukee
Community Shares of Wisconsin, Madison
Comunidad, Whitefish Bay
COPE Services, Grafton
Covey, Allenton
Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith Difenbach Communications Strategies, Milwaukee
Diverse and Resilient, Milwaukee
Dolomite Marketing, Milwaukee
Dominican Center, Mequon
Door County Land Trust, West Allis
Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Ebenezer Child Care Centers, Inc., Milwaukee
ERAs Senior Network, Inc., Waukesha
Ex Fabula, Milwaukee
Feeding Wisconsin, Madison
Fond du Lac Area Foundation, Fond du Lac
Fortunate Futures, Milwaukee
Forward Community Investments, Madison
Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc., Madison
Garden District Neighborhood Association Council, Milwaukee
Girl Scouts of Manitou Council, Sheboygan
Good Friend, Inc., Waukesha
Harbor House Crisis Shelters, A Ministry of Faith United Methodist Church, Superior
Hearthstone Historic House Museum, Appleton
Howe Community Resource Center, Green Bay
Hunger Task Force, Milwaukee
IN Progress Consulting LLC, Milwaukee
IndependenceFirst, Milwaukee
J B Plumping, Milwaukee
JDC Solutions, Milwaukee
Jean Gurney & Co. LLC, Shorewood
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Milwaukee
Kathy's House, Milwaukee
La Causa, Inc., Milwaukee
Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc., Milwaukee
Madison Area Bus Advocates, Madison
Madison Ballet, Inc., Madison
Madison Children's Museum, Madison
Madison Community Foundation, Madison
Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, Milwaukee
Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth, Inc., Milwaukee
Milwaukee City Council of PTAs, Inc., Milwaukee
Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity, Milwaukee
Milwaukee Public Theatre, Milwaukee
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

Wisconsin

Updated September 5, 2017

Page 3

Moose International
Mukwonago

Muskego Senior Taxi
Muskego

Nativity Jesuit Academy
Milwaukee

Natural Heritage Land Trust, Inc.
Madison

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
Milwaukee

NeighborWorks Blackhawk Region
Beloit

Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee
Milwaukee

North Country Independent Living
superior

Optimist Theatre
Milwaukee

Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.
Milwaukee

Penfield Children’s Center Project Concern
Milwaukee

Project Concern of Cudahy-St. Francis
Cudahy

Racine Community Foundation
Racine

Rare & Undiagnosed Network
Delafield

River Falls Community Food Pantry
River Falls

Royal Academy of Dance
Milwaukee

Savage Support Corp
Milwaukee

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin
Madison

Skylight Music Theatre
Milwaukee

Spectrum Nonprofit Services
Milwaukee

Spotted Eagle, Inc.
Milwaukee

Stepping Stone Farms
Franksville

School of Horsemanship
Menomonie

Stepping Stones of Dunn County
Waukesha

The Addiction Resource Council, Inc.
La Crosse

The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection

The Rainbow Project, Inc.
Milwaukee

Child & Family Counseling and Trauma Resource Clinic
Madison

The Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition
Milwaukee

Three Gaits, Inc.
Stoughton

Tikkun Ha-Ir
Milwaukee

UPbrella
Milwaukee

Urban Affairs Association
Milwaukee

Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin (UEDA)
Milwaukee

Veterans Employment Alliance, Inc.
Greenfield

Vista Global Coaching & Consulting
Madison

VLCF

Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County
Grafton

WasteCap Resource Solutions
Milwaukee

Waukesha Civic Theatre
Waukesha

Ways to Work, Inc.
Milwaukee

Wisconsin Association of Family and Children’s Agencies
Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Inc.
Madison

Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Wisconsin EMS Association
Wind Lake

Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Milwaukee

Wisconsin Nonprofits Association
Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development
Madison

Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation
Milwaukee

Wisconsin Transit Riders Alliance
Milwaukee

YWCA - Greater Green Bay
Green Bay

YWCA Madison
Madison

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin
Milwaukee

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