The Honorable Roy Blunt  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

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,

Missouri

After the Harvest
AIA
Allied Arts Council of St. Joseph, MO, Inc.
Americans United for Separation of Church and State - St. Louis Chapter
ArtsTech
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City
BikeWalkKC
Bilingual International Assistant Services
Blue River Watershed Association
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City
BoysGrow
Bridging The Gap
Camp Fire
Central Print
Christ Lutheran Church
Connections to Success
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
Corey's Network, Inc.
Creative Reaction Lab
Cristo Rey Kansas City High School
Diastole Scholars' Center
Dribin and Associates
EnCircle Technologies
Episcopal City Mission
Episcopal Community Services, Heartland
Francis Family Foundation
G and V Organization
Gladiator Consulting LLC
GPS Missions
Green Works in Kansas City
Habitat for Humanity of Francois County, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis
Harvesters - The Community Food Network
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
HealthEd Connect
Heartland Foundation
Hillcrest Ministries, Inc.
James McNary and Joshua Logan Memorial Scholarship
Kansas City Artists Coalition
Kansas City Consensus
Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium
Kansas City Symphony
KCPT Public Television
KMD Consulting
Leadership USA, Inc.
Lee's Summit Educational Foundation
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
Loaves & Fishes Food Bank of the Ozarks
MainCor
Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis
MHAH
Missouri Botanical Garden
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.
NAMI Southwest Missouri
Network for Strong Communities
Nonprofit Connect
Nonprofit Leadership Alliance
Nonprofit Missouri
St. Peters
Saint Louis
Kansas City
Kansas City
Lees Summit
Liberty
Saint Louis
Kansas City
Kansas City
Kansas City
Kansas City
Kansas City
Lee's Summit
Kansas City
Shell Knob
Kansas City
St Louis
Jefferson City
Ashland
Springfield
St Louis
Kansas City
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Jefferson City
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### Northeast Community Center
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### Northland Shepherd's Center
- Kansas City

### NorthWest Communities Development Corporation
- Independence

### Optimist Club of St. Charles Missouri
- Saint Charles

### Our Little Haven
- St Louis

### Platte County Senior Fund
- Kansas City

### Platte Land Trust
- Kansas City

### Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services of MO
- St. Louis County

### Royals Charities
- Kansas City

### Safe Connections
- St Louis

### Saint Louis Effort for AIDS SAVE, Inc.
- Saint Louis

### SCG Nonprofits
- Kansas City

### Shia Islamic Education Center
- Wildwood

### Show Me KC Schools
- Wildwood

### Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Kansas City

### Southeast Missouri Food Bank
- Sikeston

### Southtown Council
- Kansas City

### Special Horses, Inc.
- St Louis

### Special Olympics Missouri
- Lee's Summit

### St. Louis Area Foodbank
- Bridgeton

### St. Teresa's Academy
- Kansas City

### Synergy Group
- Wentzville

### The Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation
- Kansas City

### The Ethics Project
- St Louis

### The Hope Center KC
- Kansas City

### The South Cabin Group LLC
- Wildwood

### Turn the Page KC
- Kansas City

### Union Communion Ministries
- St Louis

### Unlimited Play
- St Louis

### Vasculitis Foundation
- Kansas City

### VisionServe Alliance
- St Louis

### Wentzville School Foundation
- Kansas City

### Women's Employment Network
- Saint Louis

### Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis
- Wright Care Dentistry

### National Organizations

- **Abila**
  - Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education, Inc.
- **AdoptAClassroom.org**
- **African Diaspora United, Inc.**
- **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 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**
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Camp Fire  
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Celiac Disease Foundation  
Center for Health, Environment & Justice  
Center for Inquiry  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Citizen Schools  
CleanSlateNow  
Common Cause  
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  
Millennium Water Alliance  
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 Volunteer Participation Center
TIDES
Unemployment Services Trust
Union for Reform Judaism
United Philanthropy Forum
United Soldiers and Sailors of America
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