The Honorable Billy Long
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Long:

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,

Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

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 Assistance 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

MH AH

Missouri Botanical Garden Council, Inc.

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

Kansas City

Kansas City

Lee's Summit

Kansas City

Shell Knob

Kansas City

St Louis

Jefferson City

Ashland

Springfield

St Louis

Kansas City

Kansas City

Jefferson City
## North Side Community School
North Northeast Community Center
Northland Shepherd's Center
NorthWest Communities Development Corporation
Optimist Club of St. Charles Missouri
Our Little Haven
Platte County Senior Fund
Platte Land Trust
Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services of MO
Royals Charities
Safe Connections
Saint Louis Effort for AIDS SAVE, Inc.
SCG Nonprofits
Shia Islamic Education Center
Show Me KC Schools
Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Southeast Missouri Food Bank
Southtown Council
Special Horses, Inc.
Special Olympics Missouri
St. Louis Area Foodbank
St. Teresa's Academy
Synergy Group
The Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation
The Ethics Project
The Hope Center KC
The South Cabin Group LLC
Turn the Page KC
Union Communion Ministries
Unlimited Play
Vasculitis Foundation
VisionServe Alliance
Wentzville School Foundation
Women's Employment Network
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 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  
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 for 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 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