

Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UPDATED June 1, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frelinghuysen:

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,

New Jersey			
Opio Haku Mo`olelo	Branchburg	Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc.	Paramus
A. L. Ball CPA	Somerset	Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation	
Above The Rim, Inc. of Newark	Newark	Christ Episcopal Church	Island Heights
Advance Housing, Inc.	Teterboro	Christ the King Preparatory School	Glen Ridge
Agraj Seva Kendra	Monroe Township	Clean Ocean Action, Inc.	Highlands
Algonquin Arts Theatre	Manasquan	Clear, Effective Communications	Jersey City
Allies In Caring, Inc.	Hammonton	Community Outreach Services, Inc.	Paterson
American Association of Teachers of German	Cherry Hill	Community Planning & Advocacy Council	
American Atheists	Cranford	Concerned Persons for Adoption	Summit
Anathtoh Foundation	Plainfield	COPE	
Angels For Action, Inc.	Mendham	Council of New Jersey Grantmakers	Trenton
ANJEC		CPFANJ	Garwood
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey		Creative Capacity	
Art House Productions	Jersey City	Creative Communications	Edison
ArtZwag		Creative New Jersey	
Associate Alumnae of Douglass College	New Brunswick	CUMAC	Paterson
Bayshore Family of Companies	Keasbey	D.G. McDermott Associates, LLC	Red Bank
BazanED		David's Shoes A NJ Nonprofit Corporation	Irvington
Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative	Hackensack	Delaware Valley Americans United for Separation of Church and State	Clayton
Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County	Lawrenceville	Dress for Success Morris County	
Camden Area Health Education Center	Camden	Edison Greenways Group, Inc.	Edison
Capacity Building and Policy Experts	Pennington	Educational Arts Team	Jersey City
Carolyn Dorfman Dance	Union	Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless	Elizabeth
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Jersey, Inc.	New Brunswick	Essex Grassroots Tennis & Education	Maplewood
CASA Shaw	Washington	Fabian Consulting, Inc.	Hightstown
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton	Trenton	Family and Children's Services	
Center for Non-Profits		Family Promise of Warren County, Inc.	Oxford
Center for Regenerative Community Solutions	Basking Ridge		
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	North Brunswick		
Chen Dance Company	Englewood cliffs		

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New Jersey

Family Resource Associates, Inc.		Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey	Cherry Hill
Family Service Association		Jewish Renaissance Kessler Foundation	Perth Amboy
Financial Wellness Institute	Deptford	Kids Corporation II	East Hanover
First Congregational Church of Montclair		KinderSmile Foundation	Newark
Foster and Adoptive Family Services		Literacy Volunteers of America - Monmouth County	Bloomfield
FRA		Love of Jesus Food Pantry	Long Branch
Freedom Center for Wildlife, Inc.	Cinnaminson	Lumad Journey Healing Ministries, LLC	Paterson
Friends of Ortley Beach	Ortley Beach	Magical Healing	Red Bank
Fylstra & Associates, LLC	Allendale	Manufactured Home Owners Association of New Jersey, Inc.	Wayne
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation	Morristown	Marcia Smith Fleres LLC	
GlassRoots	Newark	Marie Adelaide Center / Adelaide's Place	Plainsboro
GreggSmith.com, Inc.	Princeton	Maushumi Nerurkar	Atlantic City
Gubarry, Inc.	South Orange	MGR Counseling, LLC	
Heightened Independence & Progress (hip)	Hackensack	Mi Casita Day Care Center, Inc.	Belle Mead
Histiocytosis Association	Pitman	Monmouth Conservation Foundation	Camden
HiTOPS, Inc.	Princeton	Morris Arts	Camden
hob'art co-operative gallery	Hoboken	Morris County Historical Society	
Holiday Express	Tinton Falls	Morris Habitat for Humanity	Randolph
Home Care Options	Paterson	Morris Park Alliance	
HomeFront	Lawrenceville	Mosaic Dance Theater Company	Glen Ridge
Homeless Solutions, Inc.	Morristown	Music/Art of NJ, Inc.	
Hope Community Outreach	Camden	My Eternal Family	Paterson
Housing and Neighborhood Development Services (HANDS), Inc.	Orange	NAMI Camden County	Mount Laurel
Hudson County Housing Resource Center	Jersey City	Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies	Paramus
Hudson Pride Connections Center	Jersey City	New Eyes for the Needy	Short Hills
Hudson River Apiary Society	North Bergen	New Jersey Association of Community Providers	
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation	New Brunswick	New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.	Mercerville
Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss	Mountainside	New Jersey Association on Correction	
In Awe Foundation, Inc.	Clinton	New Jersey Community Capital	Trenton
Interfaith Hospitality Network - Essex	Montclair	New Jersey Future	New Brunswick
Ironbound Community Corporation	Newark	New Jersey Policy Perspective	Trenton
JCDTOC, Inc.			Morristown
Jersey Battered Women's Service	Morristown		
Jersey Central Theatre Company			

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New Jersey Public Health Association	Piscataway	Pushcart Players	Verona
New Jersey SHARES, Inc.	Ewing	Ray Mueller Productions	Stanhope
New Jersey State Museum Foundation	Trenton	Rescue Hands United International, Inc.	Elizabeth
New Jersey Theatre Alliance	West Orange	Resource Education Awareness by Latinos in Teaneck	
New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster		Rock Brook School	Skillman
New Jersey Youth Development Foundation	Kenilworth	Rutgers Institute for Ethical Leadership	Newark
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference	Mahwah	Rutgers TEEM Gateway	Camden
Newark LGBTQ Community Center	Newark	Sammy's Hope, Inc.	Sayreville
NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence	Trenton	Scalera Consulting Services	Bloomfield
NJ State Association of Jewish Federations	Scotch Plains	Seashore Family Services of NJ	Brick
NOFA-NJ		Social Service Association of Ridgewood and Vicinity	Ridgewood
NORWESCAP	Phillipsburg	Society For Preservation of Continued Homeownership	Oakhurst
Ocean's Harbor House	Toms River	Society In The Ekos, Inc.	Boonton
oneCommunityConnect	Irvington	Sojihuggles Childrens Foundation	Newton
Outpost in the Burbs, Inc.	Montclair	SPAN Parent Advocacy Network	Newark
Paradise Consulting	Cranford	St. Paul's Community Development Corporation	Paterson
Partners for Health Foundation	Montclair	St. Peter's Haven	Clifton
Partners for Women and Justice	Montclair	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.	
Pascale Sykes Foundation, Inc.		Sustainable West Milford	Hewitt
Paterson Alliance	Paterson	Tabernacle of Faith Church	
Paterson Education Fund	Paterson	Team Management 2000, Inc.	Hackensack
Paterson Task Force for Community Action, Inc.	Paterson	Tewksbury Land Trust	Morristown
Peg Wright	Somerset	The Affum-Darkwah Mission International, Inc. (TADMI)	Orange
Perth Amboy Artworks, Inc.	Perth Amboy	The Anxiety & Depression Initiative, Inc.	Totowa
Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey	Somerville	The Arc Foundation of Somerset County	Fat Hills
PR Quickhelp Nonprofit Consulting and Coaching	Red Bank	The Arc of New Jersey	North Brunswick
Praise Consulting		The Atlantic Foundation	Hamilton
Prime for Results International		The Center for Contemporary Art	Bedminster
Prime Health, Inc.		The Community YMCA	Shrewsbury
Princeton AlumniCorps	Princeton, Jersey City, Camden		
Pro Arts Jersey City	Jersey City		
Puerto Rican Unity for Progress	Camden		

The Enrichment Center for Women, Children & Families, Inc.
 The Fund for New Jersey
 The Growing Stage - The Children's of New Jersey
 The New School for Music Study
 The Parkinson Alliance
 The Women's Center
 Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
 Triple C Housing, Inc.
 Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ
 United Way of Central Jersey
 University-NOW Day Nursery
 Victoria Foundation
 Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ
 Virtua
 Visual Arts Center of New Jersey
 Volunteers of America Delaware Valley
 Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts
 WHYSaveALife Foundation
 Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
 Women Aware, Inc.
 Women Who Never Give Up, Inc.
 Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge
 Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Netcong
 Kingston
 Kingston
 Linwood
 Trenton
 Monmouth Junction
 Summit
 Milltown
 Princeton
 Newark
 Forked River
 Summit
 Collingswood
 Berkeley Heights
 Morristown
 New Brunswick
 Moorestown
 Medford
 North

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
 Champion 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

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

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 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