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

Family Resource Associates, Inc.
Family Service Association
Financial Wellness Institute
First Congregational Church of Montclair
Foster and Adoptive Family Services
FRA
Freedom Center for Wildlife, Inc.
Friends of Ortley Beach
Fylstra & Associates, LLC
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
GlassRoots
GreggSmith.com, Inc.
Gubarry, Inc.
Heightened Independence & Progress (hip)
Histioctysis Association
HITOPS, Inc.
hob'art co-operative gallery
Holiday Express
Home Care Options
HomeFront
Homeless Solutions, Inc.
Hope Community Outreach
Housing and Neighborhood Development Services (HANDS), Inc.
Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Hudson Pride Connections Center
Hudson River Apiary Society
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss
In Awe Foundation, Inc.
Interfaith Hospitality Network - Essex
Ironbound Community Corporation
JCDTOC, Inc.
Jersey Battered Women's Service
Jersey Central Theatre Company
Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey
Jewish Renaissance
Kessler Foundation
Kids Corporation II
KinderSmile Foundation
Literacy Volunteers of America - Monmouth County
Love of Jesus Food Pantry
Lumad Journey Healing Ministries, LLC
Magical Healing
Manufactured Home Owners Association of New Jersey, Inc.
Marcia Smith Fleres LLC
Marie Adelaide Center / Adelaide's Place
Maushumi Nerurkar
Mi Casita Day Care Center, Inc.
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
Morris Arts
Morris County Historical Society
Morris Habitat for Humanity
Morris Park Alliance
Mosaic Dance Theater Company
Music/Art of NJ, Inc.
My Eternal Family
NAMI Camden County
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Eyes for the Needy
New Jersey Association of Community Providers
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jersey Community Capital
New Jersey Future
New Jersey Policy Perspective
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<td>NJ State Association of Jewish Federations</td>
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<td>oneCommunityConnect</td>
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<td>The Anxiety &amp; Depression Initiative, Inc.</td>
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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

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
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

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
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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
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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
OPERAn 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