The Honorable Dave P. Joyce  
1124 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:

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,

Ohio

Action for Children Columbus
Affecting Community Dayton
Transformation d/b/a
Ohio

Aikey Foundation, Inc. Wellington
Akron

Arthur Morgan Institute for Akron
Community Solutions

Bethany House Services Cincinnati

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sidney
Shelby & Darke County

Bryan Area Foundation Bryan

Business for Peace Blacklick

Community Development
Foundation (B4P
CODEFOUND)

Cancer Patient Services Findlay

Circle of Peace International Marietta

City Year Columbus Columbus

Clark County Historical Springfield
Society

Cleveland Zoological Society Cleveland

Cogswell Hall, Inc. Cleveland

Columbus School for Girls Columbus

Community Foundation of Elyria
Lorain County

Community Kitchen Columbus

Corporation for Findlay Cincinnati

Market

Corporation for Ohio Columbus
Appalachian Development

Crime Victim Services Lima

Daybreak Dayton

Dayton Foundation Dayton

Disability Foundation, Inc. Dayton

Dobama Theatre Cleveland Heights

Dublin Arts Council Dublin

E&L Company Youngstown

Early Childhood Resource Canton

Center

Easter Seals Serving Greater Cincinnati

Edheads Hilliard

Equitas Health Columbus

Far West Center Westlake

Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Chagrin Falls
Riding Center

Food For Thought Toledo

Franciscan Earth Literacy Tiffin
Center

Friends of the Cultural Arts Columbus
Center

Glacit Theatre Collective Columbus

Goodwill Columbus West Liberty

Green Hills Community Cincinnati

Habitat for Humanity of
Greater Cincinnati Columbus

Habitat for Humanity, Mid-
Ohio

Hannah's Treasure Chest Centerville

Harmony Project Columbus

Havard, Inc. Athens

Homeport Columbus

House of New Hope Saint Louisville

Housing Research &
Advocacy Center Cleveland

Humility of Mary Housing Granville

Jarvis Gibson Foundation

Jewish Federation of
Cleveland

Kendal at Granville Granville

Kings Local Food Pantry

Lake Erie Swimming

LGBT Community Center of
Greater Cleveland

LifeSpan Hamilton

Mobile Meals of Toledo, Inc.

Toledo

Morino Ventures, LLC Rocky River

Multifaith Campus Alliance
Dayton

of the Miami Valley

Neighborhood Housing
Cleveland

Services of Greater

Cleveland

Newark-Granville Symphony
Orchestra

Non Profit Evolution Newark

Edheads

Equitas Health

Far West Center

Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center

Food For Thought

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center

Friends of the Cultural Arts Center

Glacit Theatre Collective

Goodwill Columbus

Green Hills Community

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati

Habitat for Humanity, Mid-Ohio

Hannah's Treasure Chest

Harmony Project

Havard, Inc.

Homeport

House of New Hope

Housing Research & Advocacy Center

Humility of Mary Housing

Jarvis Gibson Foundation

Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Kendal at Granville

Kings Local Food Pantry

Lake Erie Swimming

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

LifeSpan

Mobile Meals of Toledo, Inc.

Morino Ventures, LLC

Multifaith Campus Alliance of the Miami Valley

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland

Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra

Non Profit Evolution
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies  
Ohio Association of Foodbanks  
Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations - OANO  
Ohio CDC Association  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio League For Nursing  
Ohio Valley Recovery Incorporated  
One Health Organization  
Perry County Soccer League  
Philanthropy Ohio  
Preferred Properties, Inc.  
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate  
Sears-Swateland Family Foundation  
Seeds of Hope  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth  
St. Francis Spirituality Center  
Stonewall Columbus  
StrideTogether  
Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank  
The Central Ohio Symphony  
The Community Foundation for Crawford County  
The Dakota Center  
The Foodbank, Inc.  
The Gathering Place  
The George Gund Foundation  
The Problem Gambling Network of Ohio  
The Sindisa Fund  
The UpTown Association, Inc.  
Toledo Ballet  
Toledo Community Foundation  
Transitions, Inc.  
United Disability Services  
United Way of Gallia County  
United Way of Greater Cleveland  
United Way of Medina County  
United Way of Summit County  
United Way of Williams County  
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio  
VSA Ohio  
West Side Catholic Center  
WomenSafe  
Youth Rises Against All Odds  
YWCA Alliance  
YWCA Columbus  
YWCA Dayton  
YWCA Greater Cincinnati  
YWCA Hamilton Ohio serving Butler County  
YWCA Warren  

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 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