

# Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UPDATED June 1, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cole:

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,

<b>Oklahoma</b>			
108   Contemporary	Tulsa	Council on American - Islamic Relations, Oklahoma Chapter	Oklahoma City
4RKids	Enid	Creative Supports Ranch	Marland
A Chance to Change	Oklahoma City	Crossroads Clubhouse	Tulsa
Abba's Family	Tahlequah	Crossroads Hospice	Tulsa
Ada Arts and Heritage Trust Authority	Ada	Charitable Foundation	
Ada Homeless Services	Ada	Crosstown Learning Center, Inc.	Tulsa
Aim High Academy		Daily Living Centers of Oklahoma	Bethany
Among Friends Activity Center	Norman	D-DENT, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Anna's House Foundation		Easter Seals Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Ardmore Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	Ardmore	Edmond Historical Society & Museum	Edmond
Areawide Aging Agency, Inc.	Oklahoma City	Edmond Mobile Meals	
Arnall Family Foundation	Oklahoma City	Educational Alternatives	Norman
Avedis Foundation	Shawnee	Executive Service Corps of Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Best Friends of Pets	Oklahoma City	Fairland Farmers Market	Fairland
Bethany Improvement Foundation	Bethany	Family Builders, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Bethesda		Family Safety Center Tulsa	Tulsa
Big Brothers Big Sisters		Five Civilized Tribes Museum	Muskogee
Board of Directors of KIPR	Norman	Food and Shelter	Norman
Boys & Girls Club of Durant	Durant	Forster Consulting LLC	Oklahoma City
Bridges of Norman	Norman	Gatesway Foundation, Inc.	Broken Arrow
Brighter Outlook		Gateway to Prevention & Recovery	Shawnee
Broken Arrow Community Playhouse	Broken Arrow	Girls on the Run of Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Buffalo Grass Arts Institute	Clinton	Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Camp Fire Green Country	Tulsa	Goodwill Industries of Tulsa	
CAP Tulsa	Tulsa	Great Plains Region of AMBUCS	
Cargo Ranch		Har-Ber Village on Grand Lake O' The Cherokees	Grove
CASA of Cherokee Country	Tahlequah	Health Alliance for the Uninsured	Oklahoma City
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	Heartline, Inc.	
Cherokee National Historical Society, Inc.	Tahlequah	Hearts for Hearing	Oklahoma City
Children's Hospital Foundation	Oklahoma City	Hope Chest OKC	
Christians Concerned and Duncan Area Literacy Council	Duncan	HSI Sensing	Chickasha
Cities In Schools, Inc.	Ardmore	Impact	Edmond
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma	Tulsa	Impact Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Community Health Foundation of Ponca City	Ponca City	INCA Community Services, Inc.	Tishomingo

**Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship**

UDPATED June 1, 2018

Page 3

**Oklahoma**

Independent Transportation Network of Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	NorthCare	Oklahoma City
Indian Health Care Resource Center		Nth Gift LLC	Tulsa
Infant Crisis Services, Inc.	Oklahoma City	OASIS Adult Day Services	Tulsa
ITN Central Oklahoma		OK Mozart, Inc.	Bartlesville
Jasmine Moran Children's Museum	Seminole	OKC Dream Center	Oklahoma City
Jim Riley Outreach		OKC Metro Alliance, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Junior League of Norman	Norman	OKC Police Athletic League	Oklahoma City
JustHope	Tulsa	Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts	Oklahoma City
Kay Ray CPA		Oklahoma Blood Institute	
Kelly B. Todd Cerebral Palsy & Neuro-Muscular Foundation, Inc.	Muskogee	Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits	Oklahoma City
Kirkpatrick Family Fund	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Children's Theatre	Oklahoma City
Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra	Lawton	Oklahoma City Beautiful	Oklahoma City
Leap O' Faith Therapeutic Riding Center	Ada	Oklahoma City Metro Literacy Coalition	Oklahoma City
Legacy International	Yukon	Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum	Oklahoma City
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc.	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre	Oklahoma City
Lighthouse Properties LLC	Tulsa	Oklahoma City University Graduate Program in Nonprofit Leadership	Oklahoma City
Limbs for Life Foundation	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City Zoo	
Little Light House	Tulsa	Oklahoma Guardian Ad Litem Institute	Oklahoma City
Lowe Family Young Scholars Program	Bartlesville	Oklahoma Hall of Fame	Oklahoma City
Luna Sol Consulting	Tulsa	Oklahoma Heart Gallery	Tulsa
Lyric Theater of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	Oklahoma City
Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art	Shawnee	Oklahoma Museums Association	Oklahoma City
Marlow Samaritans	Marlow	Oklahoma Performing Arts, Inc.	Tulsa
McLaughlin Family Foundation	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Policy Institute	Tulsa
Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa	Tulsa	Oklahoma Railway Museum	Oklahoma City
Medical Equipment Assistance Program, Inc.		Oklahoma Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice	Tulsa
Mental Health Association Oklahoma		Oklahoma Women's Coalition	Oklahoma City
MetaFund	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Zoological Society	
Metropolitan	Oklahoma City	Oklahomans for the Arts	Oklahoma City
Misfits, Mutts and Meows		Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter	Okmulgee
Moore Youth and Family Services	Moore	Operation Aware of Oklahoma	Tulsa
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum	Oklahoma City	Operation C.A.R.E Ministries	Altus
NBC Oklahoma	Altus	Opportunities Industrialization Center of Oklahoma County (OIC)	Oklahoma City
Neighborhood Alliance	Oklahoma City	Opry Heritage Foundation of OK	Oklahoma City
New Hope Oklahoma, Inc.	Tulsa	Osage County Historical Society/Museum	
NewView Oklahoma	Oklahoma City		
Non-Profit Health Organization	Enid		

**Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship**

UDPATED June 1, 2018

Page 4

**Oklahoma**

Other Options, Inc.		Skyline Urban Ministry	Oklahoma City
Outreach Education Initiative	Tulsa	Smart Growth Tulsa	Tulsa
PAGES OKC	Oklahoma City	Smart Start Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Panhandle Services for Children, Inc.	Guymon	Special Care	Oklahoma City
Parents Helping Parents		Special Olympics Oklahoma	Tulsa
Paseo Arts Association	Oklahoma City	Stillwater CARES	Stillwater
Pathways Adult Learning Center	Tulsa	Surayya Anne Foundation OKC	Oklahoma City
Payne Education Center	Oklahoma City	TARC	Tulsa
Peaceful Family Solutions	Oklahoma City	Teen Recovery Solutions	Oklahoma City
Perinatal Quality Foundation	Oklahoma City	The Anna's House Foundation	
Philbrook Museum of Art	Tulsa	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County	Oklahoma City
Phillips Theological Seminary	Tulsa	The Children's Hospital VOLUNTEERS, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Pollard Theatre Company	Guthrie	The Eden Clinic, Inc.	Norman
Ponca City Arts and Humanities	Ponca City	The First Tee of Tulsa	Tulsa
Pontotoc Animal Welfare Society	Ada	The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools	Oklahoma City
Positive Tomorrows	Oklahoma City	The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders	Tulsa
Poteau Valley Humane Society	Poteau	The Homeless Alliance	Oklahoma City
Potts Family Foundation	Norman	The How-To Palace	Altus
Pride In McAlester	McAlester	The Islamic Council of Oklahoma	
Project Hope Worldwide		The Little Light House, Inc.	Tulsa
Promoting Animal Welfare Society, Inc.	Muskogee	The Oklahoma Academy for State Goals	
Purple Ink		The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	Oklahoma City
RAIN Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	The Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care	Oklahoma City
Rebuilding Together OKC	Oklahoma City	The Pencil Box	Tulsa
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	The Propel Foundation Incorporated	Oklahoma City
ReMerge	Oklahoma City	The Recovery Center	Oklahoma City
Resonator	Norman	Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue	Stillwater
Restore Hope Ministries	Tulsa	To By For Kids Foundation	Oklahoma City
Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Tulsa, Inc.	Tulsa	Tri-City Youth & Family Center, Inc.	Choctaw
Route 66 Alliance	Tulsa	TSHA - Total Source for Hearing-loss and Access	Tulsa
RSVP of Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	Tulsa Area United Way	Tulsa
RSVP Tulsa, Inc.		Tulsa Botanic Garden	Tulsa
Sand Springs Community Services	Sand Springs	Tulsa Camerata	Tulsa
Sand Springs Education Foundation	Sand Springs	Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy	Tulsa
Second Chance And Reentry Services	EL Reno	Tulsa Fire Museum, Inc.	Tulsa
Senior Citizens of Shawnee, Inc.	Shawnee	Tulsa Girls Art School	
Sharpshooter Communications, LLC	Tulsa	Tulsa Modern Movement	Tulsa
Shortgrass Arts and Humanities Council		Tulsa Opera, Inc.	Tulsa
SixTwelve	Oklahoma City	Tulsa Symphony Orchestra	Tulsa

United Way of Central Oklahoma	Edmond
Up With Trees	Tulsa
Upward Transitions, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Volunteers of America Oklahoma, Inc.	Tulsa
Wagoner Literacy Group	
Warriors for Freedom Foundation	Oklahoma City
Westview Boys' Home	Hollis
Wings A Special Needs Community	Oklahoma City
Women Lead Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Woodward Arts & Theatre Council, Inc.	Woodward
World Neighbors, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City
Youth At Heart	Tulsa
Youth Services for Oklahoma County, Inc.	Oklahoma City
Youth Services of Tulsa	Tulsa
YWCA Enid	Enid
YWCA Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City
Zealot Branding	Tulsa

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  
 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

**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

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