

# Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

April 5, 2017



# Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Mia Love  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Love:

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.

**Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship**

**Utah**

April 5, 2017

Page 2

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,

|                                     |             |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 3 Squares, Inc.                     |             |                                     | West Valley |
| Ability Found                       | West Valley | Comunidades Unidas                  | City        |
| AFP-Utah Chapter                    | City        | Conscious Community Collective      | SLC         |
| Aikido Mountain West                | SLC         | Cystic Fibrosis Foundation          |             |
| Allies with Families                | MIDVALE     | Daughters of Utah Pioneers          | St. George  |
| Alta Arts Council                   | SLC         | McQuarrie Memorial Museum           |             |
| Alzheimer's & Dementia Society      | St. George  | Davis Arts Council                  | Layton      |
| d/b/a Memory Matters Utah           |             | Davis Performing Arts Association   | Centerville |
| Amazing Earthfest                   | Kanab       | DOVE Center                         |             |
| American West Symphony and          | Cottonwood  | DSU Sears Art Museum                | St. George  |
| Chorus                              | Heights     | Dual Immersion Academy              | SLC         |
| APORTA                              | SLC         | Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation    | Washington  |
| Arctic Cares                        |             | Family Counseling Service of        | Ogden       |
| Art Access                          | SLC         | Northern Utah                       |             |
| Arts to Zion/ Southern Utah         | Leeds       | Family Support & Treatment Center   | Orem        |
| ASSIST, Inc.                        | SLC         | Family Support Center               | Taylorville |
| Association for Utah Community      | SLC         | Fifth Press                         | SLC         |
| Health                              |             | Flaks PR                            | Centerville |
| Association of Nature Center        | Logan       | Footsteps for Fertility Foundation  | Draper      |
| Administrators                      |             | Friends for Sight                   | SLC         |
| Bad Dog Arts                        | SLC         | Friends of Alta                     | Alta        |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah    |             | Friends of Festival Country K-9s    | Cedar City  |
| Bike Utah                           | SLC         | Friends of the Moab Folk Festival   | Moab        |
| Build2Heal                          |             | Golden Rule Project                 | SLC         |
| Camp Hobe' Inc.                     | SLC         | Good Company Theatre                | Ogden       |
| Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center  | Cedar City  | Granary Art Center                  | Ephraim     |
| Casino Star Theatre Foundation      | Mayfield    | Grand Staircase Escalante Partners  | Escalante   |
| Catholic Community Services of Utah | SLC         | Habitat for Humanity of Summit and  | Park City   |
| CCNS                                | SLC         | Wasatch County                      |             |
| Center for Awakening/One World      | Midvale     | Habitat for Humanity of Utah County | Orem        |
| Humanity                            |             | Habitat for Humanity of Weber and   | Ogden       |
| Chamber Orchestra Ogden             | Ogden       | Davis Counties                      |             |
| CHOICE Humanitarian                 | SLC         | Halo                                |             |
| Christian Center of Park City       |             | HawkWatch International             | SLC         |
| Collegiate Bridges                  | SLC         | Heart & Soul                        | SLC         |
| Color Country Animal Welfare        | Torrey      | Heart Walk Foundation               | St George   |
| Color Country Community Radio       | Torrey      | Holladay Arts Council               |             |
| Columbus Community Center           |             | Holy Cross Ministries               |             |
| Community Action Services and Food  | Provo       | Hooper Utah Team of Days for Girls  | Hooper      |
| Bank                                |             | International                       |             |
| Community Development Corp. of      | SLC         | I.J. and Jeanne Wagner Jewish       | SLC         |
| Utah                                |             | Community Center                    |             |
| Community Education Partnership of  | West Valley | Intermountain Donor Services        | SLC         |
| West Valley City, Inc.              | City        | Intermountain Public Health         | Sandy       |
|                                     |             | Consulting, LLC                     |             |

**Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship**

**Utah**

April 5, 2017

Page 3

|   |              |   |              |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| Intermountain Specialized Abuse Treatment Center              |              | Rural Housing Development Corporation DBA Self-Help Homes     | Provo        |
| Intermountain Therapy Animals                                 | SLC          | Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services                       |              |
| Junior League of SLC  | SLC          | Salt Lake Film Society  | SLC          |
| Kids On The Move  | Orem         | Sandbox Theatre Company                                       |              |
| KPCW  | Park City    | Senior Charity Care Foundation                                | Layton       |
| Latino Behavioral Health Services                             | SLC          | Seven Canyons Trust   | SLC          |
| Life Rehabilitation International, Inc.                       | West Jordan  | Shangó Music and Dance, d/b/a Samba Fogo                      | SLC          |
| Lincoln Elementary School Community Learning Center           | SLC          | Share, Inc.   | Ogden        |
| Listeners Community Radio of Utah / 90.9 FM KRCL Radio        | SLC          | Smith's Food & Drug   | SLC          |
| Mentors International   | Draper       | SoJo Choral Arts  |              |
| Moab Music Festival   | Moab         | South Valley Services   | West Jordan  |
| Modern West Fine Art/ Sam and Diane Stewart Family Foundation | SLC          | St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at St. George Johnson Farm |              |
| Mountain Arts and Music                                       | Liberty      | Sumi Nungwa   | SLC          |
| Mountain West Ballet  | Sandy        | Summit Community Counseling                                   | Taylorsville |
| Music Theatre West  | Providence   | Tanner Dance Program  | SLC          |
| National Association of Health Data Organizations             | SLC          | Team Utah Snowboarding  | SLC          |
| National Tongan American Society                              | SLC          | Thanksgiving Point  | Lehi         |
| Neighborhood House Association                                | SLC          | The BBoy Federation   | SLC          |
| Neighborhood Housing Solutions                                | Logan        | The Christmas Box International                               | SLC          |
| New Hope Crisis Center of Box Elder County                    | Brigham City | The David Ross Fetzer Foundation for Emerging Artists         | SLC          |
| Nonprofit Legal Services of Utah                              | SLC          | The Giving Principles   | SLC          |
| NOVA Chamber Music Series                                     | SLC          | The Grand Theatre   | SLC          |
| P3 Utah   | SLC          | The Green Urban Lunch Box                                     | SLC          |
| Pacific Island Knowledge 2 Action Resources                   | SLC          | The Human Rights Education Center of Utah                     | SLC          |
| Pam Anderson Insurance Agency                                 | Murray       | The INN Between   | SLC          |
| Park City Film Series   | Park City    | The King's English Bookshop                                   | SLC          |
| Park City Soccer Club   | Park City    | The Learning Center for Families                              | St. George   |
| Pathway Associates  | SLC          | The Leonardo  |              |
| Peace House, Inc.   | Park City    | The Performer Studio  | SLC          |
| People Helping People   | SLC          | The SADS Foundation   | SLC          |
| Philanthropy Matters  |              | The Sharing Place   | SLC          |
| Phillips Gallery  | SLC          | Third Sun Productions, Inc.                                   | SLC          |
| Pilar Pobil Legacy Foundation                                 | SLC          | Torrey House Press  | SLC          |
| Polizzi Foundation  | SLC          | Tracy Aviary  | SLC          |
| Preservation Utah   | SLC          | TreeUtah  | SLC          |
| Project Read  | Provo        | United Way of Northern Utah                                   | Ogden        |
| Pushing Ahead   |              | United Way of Salt Lake                                       |              |
| Rape Recovery Center  | SLC          | Utah Afterschool Network                                      | SLC          |
| Recycle Utah  | Park City    | Utah Association for the Education of Young Children (UAEYC)  | SLC          |
| Repertory Dance Theatre                                       | SLC          | Utah Association of Health Underwriters                       |              |
| Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation                | SLC          | Utah Avalanche Center   | SLC          |
| Rising Raptors After-school program                           | Sunnyside    | Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault                         | SLC          |
| Roads to Independence   | Ogden        | Utah Film Center  | SLC          |

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| Utah Health Policy Project                            | SLC      | Association for Jewish Outreach Professionals      |
| Utah Museum of Fine Arts                              | SLC      | Association of American Colleges and Universities  |
| Utah Museums Association                              |          | Association of Art Museum Directors                |
| Utah Nonprofits Association                           | SLC      | Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel |
| Utah Partners for Health                              | Midvale  | Association of Fundraising Professionals           |
| Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts                            | Murray   | Association of Immunization Managers               |
| Utah Public Health Association                        |          | Association of Nature Center Administrators        |
| Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) | SLC      | Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice             |
| Utahns Against Hunger                                 | SLC      | Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty      |
| VITA  |          | Baptist Women in Ministry                          |
| Volunteers of America, Utah                           | SLC      | Barr Foundation                                    |
| Wabi Sabi   | Moab     | BoardSource  |
| Wasatch Adaptive Sports                               | Snowbird | Brady Campaign and Center to Prevent Gun Violence  |
| Wasatch Community Gardens                             |          | Camp Fire  |
| Weber Human Services Foundation                       | Ogden    | Campion Foundation                                 |
| Weber Pathways  | Ogden    | Catholic Charities USA                             |
| West View Media                                       | SLC      | Catholic Mobilizing Network                        |
| YCC Family Crisis Center                              | Ogden    | Center for Health, Environment & Justice           |
| Youthlinc   | SLC      | Center for Inquiry                                 |
| YWCA Utah   | SLC      | Charles Stewart Mott Foundation                    |

**National Organizations**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Abila  |  | Citizen Schools                               |
| Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education, Inc. |  | CleanSlateNow                                 |
| AdoptAClassroom.org                                      |  | Commonwealth Fund                             |
| Alliance for Strong Families and Communities             |  | Council on Foundations                        |
| Alfred P. Sloan Foundation                               |  | Council for Global Equality                   |
| American Alliance of Museums                             |  | Dance USA                                     |
| American Association of Anatomists                       |  | Dementia Society, Inc.                        |
| American Association of Physics Teachers                 |  | Democracy 21                                  |
| American Association of Teachers of German               |  | Destination & Travel Foundation               |
| American Bladder Cancer Society                          |  | Dietel Partners, LLC                          |
| American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine            |  | Disability Rights Advocacy Fund               |
| American Brass Chamber Music Association                 |  | Ecology Project International                 |
| American Conference of Academic Deans                    |  | Engineering Conferences International         |
| American Heart Association                               |  | Feed the Children                             |
| American Historical Association                          |  | Feeding America                               |
| American Jewish Committee                                |  | Food & Water Watch                            |
| American Medical Association Foundation                  |  | Ford Foundation                               |
| American Physiological Society                           |  | Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers |
| American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.             |  | Free Press                                    |
| American Red Cross                                       |  | Girl Scouts of the USA                        |
| Americans for the Arts                                   |  | Girls Inc.                                    |
| Americans Promoting Study Abroad                         |  | Global Integrity                              |
| Americans United for Separation of Church and State      |  | Goodwill Industries, International            |
| Amyloidosis Foundation                                   |  | Grantmakers for Effective Organizations       |
| Annie E. Casey Foundation                                |  | Greater Nonprofits                            |
| Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center             |  | 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 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  
Mentors International  
Morino Ventures, LLC  
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  
NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Center for Appropriate Technology  
National Center for Fire and Life Safety  
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
National Council of Behavioral Health  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Nonprofits  
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 Commonwealth Fund  
The Dibble Institute  
The Educational Foundation of America  
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation  
The Ocean Foundation  
The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
The Voter Participation Center  
TIDES  
Unemployment Services Trust  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Way Worldwide  
University Professional & Continuing Education Association  
US Lacrosse  
Vasculitis Foundation  
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