The Honorable Rick R. Larsen  
2113 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Larsen:

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,

Washington

501 Commons Seattle
7028 Life Enhancement Charitable Trust Seattle
Academy of Children's Theatre Kennewick
Account for Your Health Everett
ACS - Washington Federal Way
Advancement Consulting Tacoma
Aha! Childcare & Family Learning Center Ferndale
Allison Carney Consulting Seattle
Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse Pullman
Amigas De Corazon Spokane
Anderson Foundation for the Arts Walla Walla
Art with Heart Seattle
Arts Corps Seattle
Asian Counseling & Referral Service Seattle
Backbone Campaign Vashon
Bainbridge Chorale Bainbridge Island
Bellingham Girls Rock Camp Bellingham
Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue Seattle
Birch Consulting Vancouver
Blue Mountain Humane Society Walla Walla
Blueprints for Learning Spokane
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County Seattle
Braided River Seattle
Brigid Collins Family Support Center Bellingham
Bullitt Foundation Seattle
Campion Foundation Seattle
CascadiaNow! Seattle
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington Seattle
Cedarmere Foundation Seattle
Center for Justice Spokane
Centerforce Bellevue
Centerpoint Institute Bothell
Charitable Humans

Chehalis River Basin Land Trust Centralia
Child Care Aware of WA Tacoma
Child Care Resources Seattle
Children's Home Society of Washington Seattle
CIS Seattle
Clallam Mosaic Port Angeles
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence Seattle
COMIA Foundation Cheney
Committee for Children Pullman
Community Action Center Bellevue
Congregations for the Homeless Seattle
Conservation Northwest Vancouver
Cooper Spur Wild and Free Coalition
Coral
Crainix Brain Health Institute Walla Walla
Danza Classica Ballet Foundation Silverdale
Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County Port Townsend
ECHHO (Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization) Burien
Environmental Science Center Seattle
Faith Action Network Seattle
Faith In Action West Sound Belfair
First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church Seattle
Flight Club Foundation Auburn
Forest and Sequoia Foundations Tacoma
Foundation for Healthy Generations Seattle
Foundation for International Understanding Through Students Seattle
Foundation for Sex Positive Culture Seattle
Fountain of Life Foundation Milton
Freedom Project Seattle
Friends of Lopez Island Pool Lopez Island
Friends of the Carpenter Vancouver
<p>| Full Circle Equine Rehabilitation Center | Colbert | Jewish Family Service of Seattle | Seattle |
| Fund Momentum, LLC | Seattle | Job Carr Cabin Museum | Tacoma |
| Furry Friends | Vancouver | Josephine Caring Community in Stanwood WA | Mount Vernon |
| Genetic Support Foundation | Olympia | Key Peninsula Community Services | Ellenburg |
| Girl Scouts of Western Washington | Seattle | Kirkpatrick Family Foundation | Seattle |
| Grace Baptist Church | University Place | Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity | Ellensburg |
| Granite Falls Community Coalition Food Bank | Granite Falls | KMRE Community Radio | Bellingham |
| Greater Gig Harbor Foundation | Gig Harbor | Knitting Humanity Together | Kent |
| Greater Lynchburg Community Trust | Lynchburg | Kulshan Community Land Trust | Bellingham |
| Gwaan Hai, LLC | Bellevue | Laura Pierce Consulting | Seattle |
| Habitat for Humanity - Colville Valley Partners | Colville | League of Women Voters of Washington | Seattle |
| Habitat for Humanity - Spokane | Spokane | Leary Consulting | Sammamish |
| Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County | | Legal Voice | Seattle |
| Habitat for Humanity of Washington State | Tacoma | Lewis County Literacy Council | Centralia |
| Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County | Seattle | LGBTQ Allyship | Seattle |
| Health and Hope Medical Outreach | Centralia | LKA Fundraising &amp; Communication | Seattle |
| Healthy Youth Alliance | | Lopez Island Historical Society, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanists | Lopez Island |
| Heartlinks Hospice &amp; Palliative Care | Sunnyside | Mangrove Action Project | Seattle |
| Helpline | Walla Walla | | Seattle |
| Homage Senior Services | Everett | Mary's Place Seattle | Seattle |
| HomeFront Therapies | | Master Gardener Foundation of Benton Franklin County | Richland |
| Homes and Hope Community Land Trust | Mukilteo | Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County | Ridgefield |
| Homes First | Olympia | Meade B Thayer LLC | Seattle |
| Homeward Pet Adoption Center | | Michael's Caterpillar | Seattle |
| HopeSparks Family Services | Tacoma | Monroe Community Senior Center | Monroe |
| HopeWorks Social Enterprises | Everett | Motley Zoo Animal Rescue | Redmond |
| Inland Northwest Nonprofit Consulting | | Mount Vernon Downtown Association | Mount Vernon |
| Inside Health Institute | Bothell | MSplus Foundation | Olympia |
| Intermountain Impact Investments | Walla Walla | My Kitchen Outreach Program | Battleground |
| International Community Health Services | Ken | NAMI Washington | Seattle |
| Invest in Youth | Seattle | Native Arts and Cultures Foundation | Maple Valley |
| Island County Historical Society | Coupeville | Nature 4 All | Auburn |
| Island Hospital Foundation | Anacortes | Nexus Youth and Families | Auburn |
| Nonprofit &amp; Philanthropy Resource Center | Redmond | Rebuilding Together South Sound | Tacoma |
| Nonprofit Network SWWA | Vancouver | Recovery Advocacy | Puyallup |
| Nonprofit Performance Partners, LLC | Redmond | Rooted Emerging | Ridgefield |
| North Cascades Conservation Council | | Sahsen Foundation | Sedro Woolley |
| North Helpline | Seattle | Salish School of Spokane | Spokane |
| Northwest Association for Biomedical Research | Seattle | Satterberg Foundation | Seattle |
| Northwest Children's Fund | Kirkland | Schools for Salmon | Snohomish |
| NPO | Seattle | Scout Finch Consulting | Seattle |
| NW Children's Fund | Seattle | Seattle Arts &amp; Lectures | Seattle |
| NW Financial Fitness Training | Seattle | Seattle Foundation | Seattle |
| Olympic View Community Foundation | Sequim | Seattle Works | Seattle |
| One Equal Heart Foundation | Seattle | Seattle/King Co. Coalition on Homelessness | Seattle |
| Oneness Project | Langley | Senior Services for South Sound | Olympia |
| OPAL Community Land Trust | Eastsound | Shelter Bay Chorus | La Conner |
| Open Arms Perinatal Services | Seattle | Sherwood Trust | Walla Walla |
| Orcas Island Community Foundation | Eastsound | Short Run Seattle | Seattle |
| Ortig Food Bank | Orting | Sidney Museum and Arts Association | Seattle |
| Our Literacy Council of Lewis County | Centralia | Simkin Center at Bastyr University | Seattle |
| Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program | Seattle | Skagit Community Foundation | Mount Vernon |
| Parentworks.com | | Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group | Mount Vernon |
| Pateros Brewer Community Resource Center | Pateros | Skagit Habitat for Humanity | Mount Vernon |
| Patuloy | Federal Way | Sno-Valley Senior Center | Carnation |
| Peninsula Community Health Services | Bremerton | Society of St. Vincent de Paul University | Seattle |
| Peoria Home | Everett | Sound Generations | Olympia |
| Phila Engaged Giving | Seattle | Sound Learning | Tacoma |
| Philanthropy Northwest | Seattle | Sound Nonprofits | Lake Stevens |
| Phoenix Conservancy | Pullman | Sound Salmon Solutions | Spokane |
| Pierce County Labor Community Services Agency | Tacoma | Southwest Spokane County Historical Society | Cheney |
| Pomegranate Center | | Southwest Youth and Family Services | Seattle |
| Powerful Voices | | Spokane Area Jewish Family Services | Spokane |
| Pride Foundation | Seattle | Spokane Hearing Oral Program of Excellence (HOPE) | Spokane |
| Prime Time, Inc. | Yakima | Spokane Sports Commission | Spokane |
| Progressive Animal Welfare Society | Lynnwood | Stage West Community Theatre | Ocean Shores |
| Project id | Spokane | Summit Assistance Dogs | Seattle |
| Psychotherapy Cooperative | Seattle | Support Services for the Developmentally Disabled | Seattle |
| Race to Remember | Vancouver | | |
| Rainbow Center | Tacoma | | |
| Rainier Valley Corps | Seattle | | |
| Randall St Community Garden | | | |</p>
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**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
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

Washington

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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