

Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UPDATED June 1, 2018

The Honorable Jamie L. Herrera Beutler
1107 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herrera Beutler:

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			
		Chehalis River Basin Land Trust	Centralia
501 Commons	Seattle	Child Care Aware of WA	Tacoma
7028 Life Enhancement Charitable Trust	Seattle	Child Care Resources	Seattle
Academy of Children's Theatre	Kennewick	Children's Home Society of Washington	
Account for Your Health	Everett	CIS	
ACS - Washington	Federal Way	Clallam Mosaic	Port Angeles
Advancement Consulting	Tacoma	Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence	Seattle
Aha! Childcare & Family Learning Center	Ferndale	COMIA Foundation	Cheney
Allison Carney Consulting	Seattle	Committee for Children	
Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse	Pullman	Community Action Center	Pullman
Amigas De Corazon	Spokane	Congregations for the Homeless	Bellevue
Anderson Foundation for the Arts	Walla Walla	Conservation Northwest	Seattle
Art with Heart	Seattle	Cooper Spur Wild and Free Coalition	Vancouver
Arts Corps	Seattle	Coral	
Asian Counseling & Referral Service	Seattle	Crainix Brain Health Institute	
Backbone Campaign	Vashon	Danza Classica Ballet Foundation	Walla Walla
Bainbridge Chorale	Bainbridge Island	Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County	Silverdale
Bellingham Girls Rock Camp	Bellingham	ECHHO (Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization)	Port Townsend
Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue	Seattle	Environmental Science Center	Burien
Birch Consulting	Vancouver	Faith Action Network	Seattle
Blue Mountain Humane Society	Walla Walla	Faith In Action West Sound	Belfair
Blueprints for Learning	Spokane	First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church	Seattle
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County	Seattle	Flight Club Foundation	Auburn
Braided River	Seattle	Forest and Sequoia Foundations	Tacoma
Brigid Collins Family Support Center	Bellingham	Foundation for Healthy Generations	Seattle
Bullitt Foundation	Seattle	Foundation for International Understanding Through Students	Seattle
Campion Foundation	Seattle	Foundation for Sex Positive Culture	Seattle
CascadiaNow!	Seattle	Fountain of Life Foundation	Milton
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington	Seattle	Freedom Project	Seattle
Cedarmere Foundation	Seattle	Friends of Lopez Island Pool	Lopez Island
Center for Justice	Spokane	Friends of the Carpenter	Vancouver
Centerforce			
Centerpoint Institute	Bellevue		
Charitable Humans	Bothell		

Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UDPATED June 1, 2018

Page 3

Washington

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	
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	Leahy 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 & Communication	Seattle
Healthy Youth Alliance		Lopez Island Historical Society, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanists	Lopez Island
Heartlinks Hospice & Palliative Care	Sunnyside	Mangrove Action Project	Seattle
Helpline	Walla Walla	Mannix Canby Foundation	Seattle
Homage Senior Services	Everett	Many Lights Foundation	Newcastle
HomeFront Therapies		Martial Arts in the Public Interest	Seattle
Homes and Hope Community Land Trust	Mukilteo	Mary's Place Seattle	Seattle
Homes First	Olympia	Master Gardener Foundation of Benton Franklin County	Richland
Homeward Pet Adoption Center		Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County	Ridgefield
HopeSparks Family Services	Tacoma	Meade B Thayer LLC	Seattle
HopeWorks Social Enterprises	Everett	Michael's Caterpillar Center	Seattle
Inland Northwest Nonprofit Consulting		Monroe Community Senior Center	Monroe
Inside Health Institute	Bothell	Motley Zoo Animal Rescue	Redmond
Intermountain Impact Investments	Walla Walla	Mount Vernon Downtown Association	Mount Vernon
International Community Health Services	Ken	MSplus Foundation	Olympia
Invest in Youth	Seattle	My Kitchen Outreach Program	Battleground
Island County Historical Society	Coupeville	NAMI Washington	Seattle
Island Hospital Foundation	Anacortes	Native Arts and Cultures Foundation	
		Nature 4 All	Maple Valley
		Nexus Youth and Families	Auburn

Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UDPATED June 1, 2018

Page 4

Washington

Nonprofit & Philanthropy Resource Center	Redmond	Rebuilding Together South Sound	Tacoma
Nonprofit Network SWWA	Vancouver	Recovery Advocacy	Puyallup
Nonprofit Performance Partners, LLC	Redmond	Rooted Emerging	
North Cascades Conservation Council		Sahsen Foundation	
North Helpline	Seattle	Salish School of Spokane	Spokane
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research	Seattle	Satterberg Foundation	Seattle
Northwest Children's Fund NPO	Kirkland	Schools for Salone	
NW Children's Fund	Seattle	Scout Finch Consulting	Seattle
NW Financial Fitness Training	Kelso	Seattle Arts & Lectures	Seattle
Olympic View Community Foundation	Sequim	Seattle Foundation	Seattle
One Equal Heart Foundation	Seattle	Seattle Works	Seattle
Onenss Project	Langley	Seattle/King Co. Coalition on Homelessness	Seattle
OPAL Community Land Trust	Eastsound	Senior Services for South Sound	Olympia
Open Arms Perinatal Services	Seattle	Shelter Bay Chorus	La Conner
Orcas Island Community Foundation	Eastsound	Sherwood Trust	Walla Walla
Orting Food Bank	Orting	Short Run Seattle	Seattle
Our Literacy Council of Lewis County	Centralia	Sidney Museum and Arts Association	
Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program	Seattle	Simkin Center at Bastyr University	
Parentworks.com		Skagit Community Foundation	Mount Vernon
Pateros Brewster Community Resource Center	Pateros	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Mount Vernon
Patuloy	Federal Way	Skagit Habitat for Humanity	Mount Vernon
Peninsula Community Health Services	Bremerton	Sno-Valley Senior Center	Carnation
Peoria Home	Everett	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	University Place
Phila Engaged Giving	Seattle	Sound Generations	Seattle
Philanthropy Northwest	Seattle	Sound Learning	Olympia
Phoenix Conservancy	Pullman	Sound Nonprofits	Tacoma
Pierce County Labor Community Services Agency	Tacoma	Sound Salmon Solutions	Lake Stevens
Pomegranate Center		Southwest Spokane County Historical Society	Cheney
Powerful Voices		Southwest Youth and Family Services	Seattle
Pride Foundation	Seattle	Spokane Area Jewish Family Services	Spokane
Prime Time, Inc.	Yakima	Spokane Hearing Oral Program of Excellence (HOPE)	Spokane
Progressive Animal Welfare Society	Lynnwood	Spokane Sports Commission	Spokane
Project id	Spokane	Stage West Community Theatre	Ocean Shores
Psychotherapy Cooperative	Seattle	Summit Assistance Dogs	
Race to Remember	Vancouver	Support Services for the Developmentally Disabled	
Rainbow Center	Tacoma		
Rainier Valley Corps	Seattle		
Randall St Community Garden			

Sustainable Living Center	Walla Walla	Washington Federation of	Seattle
Temple Beth Am	Seattle	Animal Care and Control	
Terrain Programs	Spokane	Agencies	
The Boiler Room	Port Townsend	Washington Nonprofits	Seattle
		Washington Physicians for	Seattle
The Harder Foundation	Tacoma	Social Responsibility	
The Leading Edge	Seattle	Washington State Nurses	
The Museum of Flight	Seattle	Foundation	
The Mustard Seed Project of	Vaughn	Washington Statewide	
Key Peninsula		Capacity Collaborative	
The Olympic Beacon Group	Copalis Crossing	Washington Women's	Seattle
		Foundation	
The Organizations of	Spokane	Weed Warriors, Nature	Burien
Northeast Spokane		Stewards Program	
The Peg and Rick Young	Seattle	Wenatchee River Institute	Leavenworth
Foundation		Wenatchee Valley Humane	Wenatchee
The Russell Family Foundation	Gig Harbor	Society	
The Sophia Way	Bellevue	Whatcom Community	Bellingham
The Successful Transition and	Walla Walla	Foundation	
Reentry (STAR) Project		Whidbey Children's Theater	Langley
Toppenish Community Chest	Toppenish	WhiteRock Consulting Group	Pullman
Food Bank		Whitman County Humane	Pullman
Transitions	Spokane	Society	
Tree of Life Sanctuary	Bellingham	Worldbridgers	
Treehouse	Seattle	Yakima Valley Community	Yakima
Tri-Cities Food Bank	Richland	Foundation	
Trout Lake Care, Inc.	Trout Lake	Yield to the King Ministry	Seattle
Turning Pointe Domestic	Shelton	YMCA of the Inland Northwest	
Violence Services		YMCA of the Palouse	Pullman
United Way of Kitsap County	Bremerton	YWCA Clark County	Vancouver
University District Food Bank	Seattle	YWCA Kitsap County	Bremerton
Upper Valley MEND	Leavenworth	YWCA of Spokane	Spokane
USA Softball of Washington	Vancouver	YWCA Olympia	Olympia
State			

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