The Honorable Cathy A. McMorris Rodgers  
1314 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McMorris Rodgers:

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,

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Full Circle Equine

Furry Friends
Genetic Support Foundation
Girl Scouts of Western Washington
Grace Baptist Church
Granite Falls Community Coalition Food Bank
Greater Gig Harbor Foundation
Greater Lynchburg Community Trust
Gwaan Hai, LLC
Habitat for Humanity - Colville Valley Partners
Habitat for Humanity - Spokane
Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County
Habitat for Humanity of Washington State
Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County
Health and Hope Medical Outreach
Healthy Youth Alliance
Heartlinks Hospice & Palliative Care
Helpline
Homage Senior Services
HomeFront Therapies
Homes and Hope Community Land Trust
Homes First
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HopeSparks Family Services
HopeWorks Social Enterprises
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Intermountain Impact Investments
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Invest in Youth
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Island Hospital Foundation
Jewish Family Service of Seattle
Job Carr Cabin Museum
Josephine Caring Community in Stanwood WA
Key Peninsula Community Services
Kirkpatrick Family Foundation
Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity
KMRE Community Radio
Knitting Humanity Together
Kulshan Community Land Trust
Laura Pierce Consulting
League of Women Voters of Washington
Leahy Consulting
Legal Voice
Lewis County Literacy Council
LGBTQ Allyship
LKA Fundraising & Communication
Lopez Island Historical Society, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanists
Mangrove Action Project
Mannix Canby Foundation
Many Lights Foundation
Martial Arts in the Public Interest
Mary's Place Seattle
Master Gardener Foundation of Benton Franklin County
Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County
Meade B Thayer LLC
Michael's Caterpillar
Monroe Community Senior Center
Motley Zoo Animal Rescue
Mount Vernon Downtown Association
MSplus Foundation
My Kitchen Outreach Program
Native Arts and Cultures Foundation
Nature 4 All
Nexus Youth and Families

Seattle
Tacoma
Mount Vernon
Seattle
Ellensburg
Bellingham
Kent
Bellingham
Seattle
Seattle
Sammamish
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Centralia
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Newcastle
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Richland
Ridgefield
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Monroe
Redmond
Mount Vernon
Olympia
Seattle
Maple Valley
<p>| 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 | Seattle |
| North Cascades Conservation Council | Seattle | Sahsen Foundation | Seattle |
| North Helpline | Seattle | Salish School of Spokane | Spokane |
| Northwest Association for Biomedical Research | Seattle | Satterberg Foundation | Seattle |
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| 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 | Seattle | Seattle Works | Seattle |
| One Equal Heart Foundation | Seattle | Seattle/King Co. Coalition on Homelessness | Seattle |
| Onenss 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 |
| Orting Food Bank | Orting | Sidney Museum and Arts Association | Seattle |
| Our Literacy Council of Lewis County | Centralia | Simkin Center at Bastyr University | Seattle |
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| Peoria Home | Everett | Sound Generations | Tacoma |
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| Pomegranate Center | Seattle | 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 | | |
| Psychotherapy Cooperative | Seattle | | |
| Race to Remember | Vancouver | | |
| Rainbow Center | Tacoma | | |
| Rainier Valley Corps | Seattle | | |</p>
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**National Organizations**

- Abila
- Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education, Inc.
- AdoptAClassroom.org
- African Diaspora United, Inc.
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- America Solidaria U.S.
- American Alliance of Museums
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American Jewish Committee
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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
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Ford Foundation
Free Press
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
Global Integrity
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations
Greater Nonprofits
GuideStar
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Harbor Compliance
HawkWatch International
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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
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National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
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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
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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