



February 7, 2018

The Honorable Peter Roskam
U.S. House of Representatives
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roskam,

On behalf of millions of taxpayers across America, we write to endorse the Preventing IRS Abuse and Protecting Free Speech Act, H.R. 4916, and urge its swift passage.

This important legislation, an identical version of which was passed by the House of Representatives last year, will help prevent future Internal Revenue Service (IRS) abuse and protect First Amendment freedoms of speech and association by eliminating the Schedule B form for 501(c) organizations that contain sensitive identifiable information on contributors to those 501(c) organizations.

As acknowledged by the IRS itself, Schedule B information is inapplicable to the legally permissible handling of 501(c) organization tax filings. Eliminating Schedule B will not only make tax compliance easier, but also help limit the ability of the IRS and others, including state officials with access to the information, to chill free speech and civic participation among the public.

As you are well aware, First Amendment free speech and association rights have come under assault in recent years, with the IRS at the center of the misbehavior. In multiple high-profile confirmed cases, the IRS has leaked sensitive, private Schedule B information that it had no right or business making public.

As only one example, the agency agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) after an IRS official provided NOM's Schedule B to the adversarial organization Human Rights Campaign, which proceeded to publish it. Revelations of leaked information, in addition to instances in which the IRS targeted organizations on the basis of perceived ideology, policy positions and names to deny or delay approval of nonprofit legal status, demonstrate that the threat to freedoms of speech, association and petitioning of government are all too real.

Congress must therefore take this opportunity as tax reform begins to strengthen First Amendment protections and prevent future IRS abuse, given the agency's established record of negligent oversight and outright abuse of power. The Preventing IRS Abuse and Protecting Free Speech Act would address those important goals, and constitute a victory for private citizens and organizations across the political spectrum.

For their part, IRS officials have gone on record in support of eliminating the Schedule B form requirement for some 501(c) classifications. As reported, in December 2015, for example, IRS Director of Exempt



Organizations Tamara Ripperda addressed the possibility of eliminating the Schedule B:

The IRS is considering eliminating Schedule B of the Form 990, which asks for the names and addresses of an exempt organization's contributors and for certain information about contributions received. Tax analysts reported that, at a program sponsored by the Urban Institute, Tammy Ripperda (Director of Exempt Organizations at the IRS) questioned whether the IRS should ask for the names and addresses of contributors, given that this information is not made public, and whether there is a need for the information from a federal tax law enforcement standpoint.

It is therefore clear that the Schedule B form requirement is unnecessary, and only perpetuates the possibility of abuse by IRS officials or outside wrongdoers, including state officials with access to the information. Accordingly, we urge all Members of Congress to support H.R. 4916, legislation that will finally eliminate the Schedule B form requirement for 501(c) groups.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Leigh Hixon
Senior Director of Policy
Relations
Alabama Policy Institute

Lisa B. Nelson
CEO
ALEC Action

Michael Farris
President, CEO & General
Counsel
Alliance Defending Freedom

Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment

Steve Pociask
President
American Consumer Institute
Center for Citizen Research

Allen Hebert, Chairman
American-Chinese Fellowship
of Houston

Dan Schneider
Executive Director
American Conservative Union

Sean Noble
President
American Encore

Mark J. Fitzgibbons
President of Corporate Affairs
American Target Advertising,
Inc.

Tim Wildmon
President
American Family Association

Brent Wm. Gardner
Chief Government Affairs
Officer
Americans for Prosperity

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Brenda Baller
Vice-President
Baller & Co.

Rich Bott, President
Dick Bott, Founder
Bott Radio Network

Will Swaim
President
California Policy Center



Steve Buckstein
Senior Policy Analyst and
Founder
Cascade Policy Institute

Andrew F. Quinlan
President
Center for Freedom and
Prosperity

Olivia Grady
Senior Fellow
Center for Worker Freedom

Chuck Muth
President
Citizen Outreach

Twila Brase RN, PHN
President and Co-founder
Citizens' Council for Health
Freedom

William L. Walton
Chairman
CNP Action, Inc.

Dawn Wildman
Policy Director
Coalition for Policy Reform

Kent Lassman
President and CEO
Competitive Enterprise
Institute

Dan Caldwell
Executive Director
Concerned Veterans for
America

Penny Nance
President and CEO
Concerned Women for
America

Richard A. Viguerie
Chairman
ConservativeHQ.com

James N. Clymer
Vice President
Conservative Legal Defense
and Education Fund

Matthew Kandrach
President
Consumer Action for a Strong
Economy

Ron Pearson
President
Council for America

Tom Schatz
President
Council for Citizens Against
Government Waste

Katie McAuliffe
Executive Director
Digital Liberty

Rebekah Gantner
Executive Director
Eagle Forum Education &
Legal Defense Fund

Tim Hoefler
Executive Director
Empire Center for Public
Policy

Grant Callen
President
Empower Mississippi
Foundation

Gary Marx
Former Executive Director
Faith and Freedom Coalition

Chad Connelly
President
Faith Wins

Paul Weber
President & CEO
Family Policy Alliance

James C. Dobson Ph.D.
Founder & President
Family Talk

Tarren Bragdon
Chief Executive Officer
Foundation for Government
Accountability



Independent[®]
Women's Voice

FREEDOM
PARTNERS

Behind the Scenes
CONSERVATIVE HQ



WORKER
FREEDOM
Liberate. Labor.

 **LIBERTAS**
INSTITUTE

 **STATE POLICY**
NETWORK


ALABAMA POLICY
INSTITUTE **CALIFORNIA**
POLICY
CENTER

 **THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE**


Cascade Policy
Institute **OREGON**

John Locke
FOUNDATION

mi **Maclver Institute**
The Free Market Voice for Wisconsin

M
MISSOURI CENTURY
FOUNDATION

Brian Minnich
Executive Vice President
Freedom Foundation

Nathan Nascimento
Executive Vice President
Freedom Partners Chamber of
Commerce

Adam Brandon
President
FreedomWorks

George Landrith
President
Frontiers of Freedom

David Barnes
Policy Director
Generation Opportunity

Victor Riches
President & CEO
Goldwater Institute

Christopher L. Carmouche
Executive Director
GrassTopsUSA

Joseph R. Gregory
President and CEO
Gregory Management
Company

Mario Lopez
President
Hispanic Leadership Fund

John Tillman
CEO
Illinois Policy Institute

Carrie L. Lukas
President
Independent Women's Forum

Heather R. Higgins
President and CEO
Independent Women's Voice

Andrew Langer
President
Institute for Liberty

Kory Swanson
President & CEO
John Locke Foundation

Samuel B. Casey
General Counsel
Jubilee Campaign

Dave Trabert
President
Kansas Policy Institute

Seton Motley
President
Less Government

Connor Boyack
President
Libertas Institute

Mat Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Penny Pullen
President
Life Advocacy Resource
Project

The Honorable Bob McEwen
U.S. House of Representatives
Former Member, Ohio

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
Media Research Center

Cleta Mitchell, Esq.
Attorney for Nonprofit
Organizations

Gregg Keller
Chairman
Missouri Century Foundation

Brent Mead
CEO
Montana Policy Institute

Ted Baehr
Publisher
Movieguide



Willes K Lee
President
National Federation of
Republican Assemblies

Mike Stenhouse
CEO
Rhode Island Center for
Freedom & Prosperity



Chris W. Cox
Executive Director
National Rifle Association
Institute for Legislative Action

The Honorable Richard T.
Schulze (R-PA)
Former Member of Congress



Pete Sepp
President
National Taxpayers Union

James L. Martin
Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association



John A. Tsarpalas
President
Nevada Policy Research
Institute

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO
Small Business &
Entrepreneurship Council



Jonathan Small
President
Oklahoma Council of Public
Affairs

Tracie Sharp
President & CEO
State Policy Network



Sally C. Pipes
President and CEO
Pacific Research Institute

Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life of America



Caroline Lewis
Owner
Percipio Communications

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance



Ed Martin
President
Phyllis Schlafly Eagles

Judson Phillips
President
Tea Party Nation



Jim Vokal
Chief Executive Officer
Platte Institute

Jenny Beth Martin
Co-Founder
Tea Party Patriots



Lorenzo Montanari
Executive Director
Property Rights Alliance

Lynn Taylor
President
Tertium Quids



Nancy Schulze
Founder, Republican
Congressional Wives Speakers
Co-Chair, Congressional
Prayer Caucus Wives Council

Robert Alt
President & CEO
The Buckeye Institute



Joe Calvert
President
Rabon Calvert Interests

Brett Healy
President
The John K. MacIver Institute
for Public Policy

Daniel Garza
President
The Libre Initiative



Matthew Gagnon
 Chief Executive Officer
 The Maine Heritage Policy
 Center

Charles Sauer
 Founder and President
 The Market Institute

Stephen T. Whelan
 Chairman
 The Witherspoon Institute

C. Preston Noell III
 President
 Tradition, Family, Property,
 Inc.

Bill Dallas
 CEO
 United in Purpose

Dann Mead Smith
 President
 Washington Policy Center

David A Keene
 Editor at Large
 Washington Times

Alan P. Dye
 Partner
 Webster, Chamberlain & Bean

Floyd Brown
 Chairman
 Western Center for Journalism

J C White
 President
 Almont Homes

Somers H. White
 Former Arizona State Senator

cc: Members of Congress