

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 1, 2014

Dear Chairman Crenshaw:

As Members of Congress committed to protecting the free speech rights of 501(c)(4) civic organizations, we are writing to bring your attention to recent attempts by the Obama Administration to make the targeting of these groups the official policy of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). We respectfully request that you ensure that the IRS maintain the current rule for 501(c)(4) groups as the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government drafts legislation to fund the government for fiscal year (FY) 2015.

Specifically, we are asking that the Appropriations Committee prohibit the use of any funds for implementing any regulations that change the "primary purpose" standard, which is used to determine the tax-exempt status of 501(c)(4) organizations. We are pleased that the FY2014 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill included Section 903, which not only would have prevented the IRS from issuing such regulations, but also prohibited the IRS from targeting groups based upon their ideological beliefs. Unfortunately, the FY2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act failed to include language prohibiting the IRS from restricting the free speech of 501(c)(4) organizations.

As you may know, the IRS recently proposed a rule change (IRS REG-134417-13) for 501(c)(4) that would severely restrict the ability of 501(c)(4) organizations to engage in the public square. The IRS asked for public comment and the public's response was overwhelming; over 143,000 comments were received. In addition, 81 Members of the Republican Study Committee submitted a comment opposing the rule change.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the free speech rights of 501(c)(4) organizations are protected in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,



Rep. Steve Scalise



Rep. Mark Meadows



Rep. Brad Wenstrup

Michele Bachmann
Rep. Michele Bachmann

Joe Barton
Rep. Joe Barton

Kerry Bentivolio
Rep. Kerry Bentivolio

Rob Bishop
Rep. Rob Bishop

Diane Black
Rep. Diane Black

Marsha Blackburn
Rep. Marsha Blackburn

Kevin Brady
Rep. Kevin Brady

Mo Brooks
Rep. Mo Brooks

Michael Burgess
Rep. Michael Burgess

Bradley Byrne M.C.
Rep. Bradley Byrne

Steve Chabot
Rep. Steve Chabot

Doug Collins
Rep. Doug Collins

Kevin Cramer
Rep. Kevin Cramer

Jeff Denham
Rep. Jeff Denham

Ron DeSantis
Rep. Ron DeSantis

Jeff Duncan
Rep. Jeff Duncan

John Fleming
Rep. John Fleming

Bill Flores
Rep. Bill Flores

Trent Franks
Rep. Trent Franks

Louis Gohmert
Rep. Louis Gohmert

Bob Goodlatte
Rep. Bob Goodlatte

Paul Gosar
Rep. Paul Gosar

Ralph Hall
Rep. Ralph Hall

Vicky Hartzler
Rep. Vicky Hartzler

Jeb Hensarling
Rep. Jeb Hensarling

Tim Huelskamp
Rep. Tim Huelskamp

Lynn Jenkins
Rep. Lynn Jenkins

Steve King
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Robert Latta
Rep. Robert Latta

Doug LaMalfa
Rep. Doug LaMalfa

Doug Lamborn
Rep. Doug Lamborn

Cynthia Lummis
Rep. Cynthia Lummis

Jeff Miller
Rep. Jeff Miller

Mick Mulvaney
Rep. Mick Mulvaney

Randy Neugebauer
Rep. Randy Neugebauer

Pete Olson
Rep. Pete Olson

Steven Palazzo
Rep. Steven Palazzo

Erik Paulsen
Rep. Erik Paulsen

Scott Perry
Rep. Scott Perry

Joe Pitts
Rep. Joe Pitts

Mike Pompeo
Rep. Mike Pompeo

Bill Posey
Rep. Bill Posey

Reid Ribble
Rep. Reid Ribble

Todd Rokita
Rep. Todd Rokita

Keith Rothfus
Rep. Keith Rothfus

Matt Salmon
Rep. Matt Salmon

Mark Sanford
Rep. Mark Sanford

David Schweikert
Rep. David Schweikert

Pete Sessions
Rep. Pete Sessions

Steve Southerland
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Marlin Stutzman
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Scott Tipton
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Randy Weber
Rep. Randy Weber

Lynn Westmoreland
Rep. Lynn Westmoreland

Joe Wilson
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