



NY Funders Alliance: Johnson Amendment

Nonpartisanship is a hallmark of charitable organizations and they have remained above the divisiveness of political activity for decades. Their 501(c)(3) status allows them to engage in voter education and some forms of advocacy but prohibits them from supporting specific candidates. This is essential for maintaining public trust as it shows these organizations are dedicated to solving problems, not pushing agendas.

NY Funders Alliance Johnson Amendment Policy Statement:

NY Funders Alliance supports enforcing current law (the “Johnson Amendment”) that prohibits 501(c)(3) charitable organizations from engaging in partisan campaign activities and endorsing, opposing or contributing to political campaigns. NY Funders Alliance does not and will not support any proposals that would weaken or repeal this protection.

Approved: NY Funders Board of Directors, January 2019

The Johnson Amendment ensures integrity.

Should this amendment be modified or repealed, it would have ripple effects that could harm the charitable sector. In 2017, there several bills pushed that would have deeply affected the way 501(c)(3) organizations operated and done away with the amendment completely. Fortunately, they were voted down, but this shows a dangerous trend.

If charitable organizations were able to endorse and support specific political candidates, the entire sector could run the risk of losing public support. It would show that these organizations are being used to further partisan political agendas rather than to address persistent problems in communities.

We support keeping the charitable sector nonpartisan by continuing to fully enforce the Johnson Amendment as written and allowing charitable organizations to operate free from political pressure and persuasion.