

June 13, 2016

Dear Member,

As organizations that represent the interests of millions of taxpayers across the country, we write in support of H.R. 5053, the “Preventing IRS Abuse and Protecting Free Speech Act,” sponsored by Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Ill.). This legislation would eliminate the Schedule B form for 501(c) organizations, which includes identifiable information of contributors to 501(c) organizations. This information is irrelevant to the routine handling of 501(c) organization tax filings and will help make tax compliance easier, as well as further curb the ability of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to hinder free speech and civic participation among the public.

This bill presents an opportunity to strengthen free speech protections in light of recent cases of intimidation and mishandling of private information by the IRS. It would be a win for organizations across the political spectrum.

Free speech has been under assault in recent years and the IRS has been at the center of the controversy. In several well-documented cases, the agency leaked private and sensitive Schedule B information that should never have been made public. For example, the agency settled a lawsuit with the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) after an IRS official emailed NOM's Form 990, Schedule B to the Human Rights Campaign, which then published it.

The revelations of leaked information, as well as evidence proving that the IRS selectively grouped organizations based on their names, policy positions, and perceived ideology to deny or delay requests for non-profit status, show that the fight for free speech is alive and very real.

Lawmakers must take every opportunity to keep the IRS in check, as the agency has been both derelict in its oversight and abusive with its power. H.R. 5053 will reduce the risks of continued abuse.

Some officials at the IRS have even supported ending the Schedule B form requirement for some 501(c) classifications. For example, in December of 2015, it was reported that Tamara Ripperda, IRS Director of Exempt Organizations, discussed the potential for elimination of 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 clear that the Schedule B form requirement is not needed. Therefore, we urge all members of the House of Representatives to support H.R. 5053 and eliminate the Schedule B form requirement for 501(c) groups.

Sincerely,

James L. Martin, Chairman
60 Plus Association

Melissa Ortiz, Founder & Principal
Able Americans

Dan Greenberg, President
Advance Arkansas Institute

Caleb Crosby, President and CEO
Alabama Policy Institute

Colby May, Director and Senior
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American Center for Law and Justice

Phil Kerpen, President
American Commitment

Dan Schneider, Executive Director
The American Conservative Union

George David Banks, Executive Vice
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American Council for Capitol
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Dan Backer, Chairman
American Dream Foundation

Gary L. Bauer President
American Values

Mark J. Fitzgibbons, President of
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Ernest Istook, President
Americans for Less Regulation

Rick Manning, President
Americans for Limited Government

Coley Jackson, President
Americans for Competitive Enterprise

Brent Wm. Gardner, Vice President of
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Americans for Prosperity

Grover Norquist, President
Americans for Tax Reform

Becky Gerritson, Founder
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Norm Singleton, President
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Linwood Bragan, Executive Director
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Alfred J. Lechner, Jr., President and
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Andrew F. Quinlan, President
Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Jeffrey Mazzella, President
Center for Individual Freedom

Matt Patterson, Executive Director
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Stephani Scruggs, Co-Chairmen
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Katie McAuliffe, Executive Director
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Freedom Foundation of Minnesota

Mark V. Holden, Chairman
Freedom Partners Chamber of
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Adam Brandon, CEO and President
FreedomWorks

George Landrith, President
Frontiers of Freedom

Andrew Clark, President
Generation Opportunity

Andresen Blom, Executive Director
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Michael A. Needham, CEO
Heritage Action for America

Ambassador Henry F. (Hank) Cooper,
Chairman
High Frontier

Mario H. Lopez, President
Hispanic Leadership Fund

Wayne Hoffman, President
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National Rifle Association

Pete Sepp, President
National Taxpayers Union

Paul Mero, President and CEO
Next Generation Freedom Fund

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Property Rights Alliance

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Put Growth First

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Matthew Brooks, Executive Director
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Paul Gessing, President
Rio Grande Foundation

Samantha Dravis, President
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Karen Kerrigan, CEO
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Tracie Sharp, President
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Andrea S. Lafferty, President
Rev. Louis P. Sheldon, Founder and
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Traditional Values Coalition

Michael Connelly, Executive Director
United States Justice Foundation

Christopher Prudhome, President
Vote America Now

Robert D. Thompson, Administrator
The Weyrich Lunch

Gerrye Johnston, Founder/CEO
Women for Democracy in America, Inc.

Signing on as an Individual:

Ted Baehr, Publisher,
MOVIEGUIDE(R)

Hunter Lewis, co-founder of
Cambridge Associates

Stephen Moore, Co-Founder
Committee to Unleash Prosperity

Nick Sorrentino, co-founder of Against
Crony Capitalism