

# 5 Reasons Lawmakers Should Protect Non-Profit Donor Privacy



**Every American has the right to support causes he or she believes in without fear of harassment and intimidation.**

Privately supporting causes, and the organizations advancing those causes, is a fundamental freedom that is protected by the First Amendment. Our Founding Fathers used pen names to encourage independence from England. Nearly 200 years later, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the state of Alabama from demanding the supporter list of the NAACP, citing concerns about retribution against the group's members and financial backers. This protection is just as relevant today.



**Calling private donations “dark money” is like saying your right to a private ballot is “dark voting.”**

Just as the right to pull the curtain closed behind us as we vote for our chosen candidates is sacrosanct, so too is our right to support charities and interest groups without the government standing over our shoulder and sharing the information with the wider world. Americans have a right to keep their political opinions private.



**73% of registered voters agree the government has no right to know what groups or causes they support.**

If lawmakers require non-profit groups to report the names and addresses of their supporters to a government agency to be posted in an online database that will be available for anyone to see, they will be on the wrong side of public opinion.



**If we allow the government to create a database of the causes that individuals support, it's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.**

In 2015, a man went on a shooting rampage at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs. He shot and tragically killed three people and wounded nine others because of his views against Planned Parenthood. If the law in Colorado required the name and addresses of all donors to that Planned Parenthood be made public, that man would have known where others who supported the organization lived in the community and the tragedy could have been much worse. No lawmaker wants to be responsible for creating a law that facilitates violence.



**When political donations are made public, bad things can happen. Just imagine what will happen when charitable giving is also reported to the government.**

Margie Christopherson lost her job as a restaurant manager after her \$100 donation to the campaign to ban gay marriage in California became public. If charitable giving follows suit, the government will have a database of people who support the NRA, pro-family groups, or even churches. Regular citizens could be targeted by activists based on their beliefs.