

Protect Nonprofit Speech and Private Giving

**National Nonprofit Day is
Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

Nonprofit organizations are forces for good and have a long history of educating Americans and policymakers about complex issues.

Voters **strongly believe** nonprofits have an important role with issue advocacy and public education

% of registered voters saying each role of nonprofit organizations is "absolutely essential" or "very important"

Encouraging free speech and the free exchange of ideas **70%**

Helping to keep voters informed on issues **69%**

Educating the public on current issues **67%**

Improving the integrity of our elections **66%**

Congress is currently considering four bills that would subject nonprofits to a barrage of new regulations and disclosures. If passed, they would **chill the speech of issue-advocacy groups and nonprofits across the political spectrum**. These bills were originally part of H.R. 1 / S. 1, the For the People Act:

Honest Ads Act [S. 1356 / H.R. 2592](#) *Not yet introduced in the 117th Congress.*

The FEC's internet exemption from regulations that govern ads in other media is a great equalizer for small and emerging organizations to get their message out in a cost-effective way. But the Honest Ads Act will remove the exemption and **expand reporting requirements** for paid internet and digital communications. This **unfairly hurts groups with limited resources**.

DISCLOSE Act [S. 443 / H.R. 1334](#)

Requires organizations to **report donors to the Federal Election Commission** (FEC) for common types of nonprofit communications and granting funds to another nonprofit. The aggressive mandates in this bill violate Americans' privacy, facilitate harassment, and will decrease civic engagement.

Secret Money Transparency Act *Provision in S. 1 / H.R. 1.*

Also: Spotlight Act [S. 215 / H.R. 774](#)

The Secret Money Transparency Act **removes safeguards** placed on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that prevent it from abusing power. The Spotlight Act goes further by requiring **disclosure of the names and addresses of all nonprofit donors** that give more than \$5,000 annually. This would render nonprofit donors vulnerable to doxxing.

Stand by Every Ad Act [H.R. 1171](#)

Requires **nonprofits to list donors' names in ads**. This invasion of privacy will make it more difficult for groups to speak, and will dangerously expose citizens to public scrutiny. The disclaimer will also shift the public's focus onto the nonprofit's donors rather than the substance of the message, hastening the erosion of quality public discourse about issues.

Call your federal legislators and let them know the **Honest Ads Act, Secret Money Transparency Act, DISCLOSE Act and Stand by Every Ad Act:**

- Threaten Americans' ability to privately give to causes they care about.
- Chill the speech of issue-advocacy groups and nonprofits.
- Force nonprofits to choose between spreading their message and protecting their donors' privacy.

- Target law-abiding American nonprofits instead of guarding against foreign interference in elections.
- Unfairly hurt small and emerging nonprofits that do not have the resources to hire attorneys to help navigate these confusing regulations.
- Expose nonprofit donors and leaders to harassment and intimidation.
- Force grant-making nonprofits to shut down philanthropic efforts to protect donors and themselves from liability.