

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader U.S.
Senate Washington, DC
20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader U.S.
Senate Washington, DC
20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Republican Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the millions of Americans who cherish and rely on the right to support causes we believe in without fear of harassment and intimidation, we, the undersigned individuals and organizations, ask you to reject H.R. 1 and S. 1, the deceptively named "For the People Act."

Nonprofit organizations serve a vital role in encouraging free speech and the free exchange of ideas. Privately supporting causes -- and the organizations advancing those causes -- is a fundamental freedom protected by the First Amendment.

Our Founding Fathers used pen names to encourage independence from Great Britain. Nearly 200 years later, the Supreme Court of the United States 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. And last month, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case challenging a California regulation forcing charities to hand over their supporter lists to the government.

H.R. 1 and S. 1 would dramatically alter the First Amendment protections that Americans have enjoyed since the founding of our country. It would institute sweeping new burdens on their constitutionally protected rights to freely speak, publish, and organize into groups to advocate for the causes they support. In particular, H.R. 1 and S. 1 would impose onerous and unworkable regulatory standards on the ability of individual Americans and groups of Americans to discuss the policy issues of the day with elected officials and the public. This bill would also violate the privacy of advocacy groups and their supporters and stringently and excessively regulate political speech on the Internet.

More specifically, H.R. 1 and S. 1 include numerous, sweeping provisions that would violate the First Amendment rights of Americans by:

- Subjecting citizens who contribute to nonprofit organizations to harassment and intimidation by making their personal information available in a searchable

government database. This mandate focuses public attention on the individuals and donors who support causes instead of on the messages communicated by those organizations, exacerbating the politics of division and personal destruction and further coarsening political discourse. This would have a considerable chilling effect on civic engagement and free speech.

- Policing speech by Americans about legislative issues by expanding the definition of “electioneering communications” – historically limited to large-scale TV and radio campaigns targeted to the electorate in a campaign for office – to include online advertising that bears no relation to an election. This will subject far more issue ads to burdensome disclaimer requirements, which will coerce groups into truncating their message and make some advertising, especially online, practically impossible.
- Indiscriminately regulating groups that incidentally or occasionally advocate on federal judicial nominations and require those groups to broadly expose their donors, even if those citizens had nothing to do with the groups’ speech about judicial nominees.
- Forcing groups to publicly identify their supporters on the face of the ads themselves. Faced with the prospect of being inaccurately associated with what the law would consider (unjustifiably, in many or most instances) “campaign” ads in FEC reports and disclaimers, many donors will choose not to give to nonprofit groups.
- Increasing regulation of the online speech of American citizens while purporting (and failing) to address the threat of Russian propaganda.
- Expanding the universe of regulated online political speech by Americans beyond paid advertising to include communications on groups’ or individuals’ own websites and email messages.
- Deterring American citizens from serving their country through political appointments by forcing them to disclose their donations to causes they have supported in the past.

Our elections will not be more honest, more informed, or more secure from foreign interference if we sacrifice the privacy of American citizens. But our democracy will be weakened if voices are eliminated from public debate through intimidation and overregulation.

As a Member of Congress, you have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. H.R. 1 and S. 1 propose multiple violations of our First Amendment rights. On behalf of the millions of American citizens our organizations represent, we strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 1 and S. 1.

Sincerely,

Heather Lauer, Executive Director
People United for Privacy

Grover Norquist, President
Americans For Tax Reform

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
ALEC Action

Brent Wm. Gardner, Chief Government
Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

Michael P. Farris, President & CEO
Alliance Defending Freedom

James L. Martin, Founder/Chairman
Saulius "Saul" Anuzis, President
60 Plus Association

Caleb Crosby, President and CEO
Alabama Policy Institute

Bethany Marcum, CEO
Alaska Policy Forum

John Droz, Jr., Founder
Alliance for Wise Energy Decisions

Bob Carlstrom, President
AMAC Action

Dick Patten, President
American Business Defense Council

Phil Kerpen, President
American Commitment

Bill Johnson, President
American Decency Association

Tom Pyle, President
American Energy Alliance

Carrie Ann Donnell, President & CEO*
American Juris Link

Gary L. Bauer, President*
American Values

Bradley Johnson, President
Americans for Intelligence Reform

Richard Manning, President
Americans for Limited Government

Mike Nichols, President
Badger Institute

John Toedtman, Executive Director
Caesar Rodney Institute

Will Swaim, President
California Policy Center

Ryan Johnson, Associate Commissioner,
District 2*
Cass County Commission

Ryan Ellis, President*
Center for a Free Economy

Cathi Herrod, Esq, President
Center for Arizona Policy

Andrew F. Quinlan, President
Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Jeff Mazzella, President
Center for Individual Freedom

Star Parker, President
Rev. Tim Latiff, Clergy Director
Center for Urban Renewal and Education

John Hinderaker, President
Center of the American Experiment

Larry Cirignano
Children First Foundation

David Nammo, Executive Director & CEO
Christian Legal Society

Aaron Baer, President*
Citizens for Community Values

David N. Bossie, President*
Citizens United

Charles Mitchell, President and CEO
Commonwealth Foundation

Kent Lassman, President and CEO
Competitive Enterprise Institute

Nathan Anderson, Executive Director
Concerned Veterans for America

Penny Young Nance, CEO and President
Concerned Women for America
Legislative Action Committee

Ron Pearson, Executive Director
Conservative Victory Fund

The Honorable George K. Rasley Jr.,
Managing Editor
ConservativeHQ.com

Thomas A. Schatz, President
Council for Citizens Against Government
Waste

Linda W. Smith, President
D. James Kennedy Center for Christian
Statesmanship

Frank Wright, Ph.D., President & CEO*
D. James Kennedy Ministries

Katie McAuliffe, Executive Director
Digital Liberty

Lawson Bader, President & CEO
DonorsTrust

Colleen Holcomb, President
Eagle Forum

Tim Hoefer, President & CEO
Empire Center for New York State Policy

Craig Richardson, President*
Energy & Environment Legal Institute

Rob Roper, President
Ethan Allen Institute

Patrick Purtill, Director of Legislative
Affairs
Faith & Freedom Coalition

Craig DeRoche, President & CEO
Family Policy Alliance

Bob Dane, Executive Director*
Federation for American Immigration
Reform

Kelly Shackelford, Esq., President, CEO &
Chief Counsel
First Liberty

Tom McCabe, CEO
Freedom Foundation

Annette Meeks, CEO
Freedom Foundation of Minnesota

Adam Brandon, President
FreedomWorks

Randy Hicks, President and CEO
Georgia Center for Opportunity

Victor Riches, President and CEO
Goldwater Institute

Ron Williamson, President
Great Plains Public Policy Institute

Tim Macy, Chairman
Gun Owners of America

Sam Paredes, Executive Director
Gun Owners of California

Jessica Anderson, Executive Director
Heritage Action

Mario Lopez, President
Hispanic Leadership Fund

Jon Coupal, President
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Daniel Perrin, President
HSA Coalition

Fred Birnbaum, Director of Legislative
Affairs
Idaho Freedom Foundation
Idaho Freedom Action

Matt Paprocki, President
Illinois Policy Institute

Jon C. Caldara, President
Independence Institute

Heather R. Higgins, CEO
Independent Women's Voice

Ryan McCann, Executive Director*
Indiana Family Institute

Andrew Langer, President
Institute for Liberty

F. Vinnie Vernuccio, President
Institute for the American Worker

Chris Ingstad, President
Iowans for Tax Relief

James Bopp Jr., General Counsel
James Madison Center for Free Speech

Becki Gray, Senior Vice President
John Locke Foundation

James Franko, President*
Kansas Policy Institute

Phillip Wright, Executive Director*
Keep My Voice

Jacob Hibbard, President
Latter-day Freeman

Seton Motley, President
Less Government

Colin A. Hanna, President
Let Freedom Ring

Connor Boyack, President
Libertas Institute

Charles T. Moran, Managing Director
Log Cabin Republicans

Gene Mills, President
Louisiana Family Forum

Joseph Lehman, President
Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Tom McClusky, President
March for Life Action

John Helmberger, Chief Executive Officer
Minnesota Family Council

Douglas Carswell, President & CEO
Mississippi Center for Public Policy

Gregg Keller, Chairman
Missouri Century Foundation

Hunter King, Director of Federal Affairs
National Association for Gun Rights

Troy A. Miller, CEO
National Religious Broadcasters

Carol Tobias, President
National Right to Life

Greg Mourad, Vice President
National Right to Work Committee

Pete Sepp, President
National Taxpayers Union

Karen Bowling, Executive Director
Nebraska Family Alliance

Robert Fellner, Vice President & Policy
Director
Nevada Policy Research Institute

Chris Chmielenski, Vice President
NumbersUSA

Ellen Weaver, President & CEO
Palmetto Promise Institute

Daniel Erspamer, CEO
Pelican Institute for Public Policy

Michael Geer, President
Pennsylvania Family Institute

Jim Vokal, Chief Executive Officer
Platte Institute

Mary Taylor, President*
Pro-Life Utah

Lorenzo Montanari, Executive Director
Property Rights Alliance

Eli Lehrer, President
R Street Institute

Mike Stenhouse, CEO
Rhode Island Center for Freedom &
Prosperity

Denise Leipold, Executive Director*
Right to Life of Northeast Ohio

James Wigderson, Editor*
RightWisconsin

Paul Gessing, President
Rio Grande Foundation

Bette Grande, CEO
Roughrider Policy Center

James Setterlund, Executive Director
Shareholder Advocacy Forum

Tracie Sharp, President and CEO
State Policy Network

Maureen Blum, Founder and Principal
Strategic Coalitions & Initiatives LCC

Kristan Hawkins, President
Students for Life of America
Students for Life Action

David William, President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Judson Phillips, Founder
Tea Party Nation

Jenny Beth Martin, Honorary Chairman*
Tea Party Patriots Action

Robert Alt, President and CEO
The Buckeye Institute

Gary Marx, President
The Concord Fund

Art Harman, Executive Director
The Conservative Caucus / Americans for
Constitutional Liberty

Jim Lakely, Vice President
The Heartland Institute

J. Robert McClure III, Ph. D., President and
CEO
The James Madison Institute

Brett Healy, President
The John K. MacIver Institute for Public
Policy

Daniel Garza, President
The LIBRE Initiative

Renee Carlson, General Counsel
True North Legal

Carl Bearden, CEO
United for Missouri

Rusty Cannon, Vice President
Utah Taxpayers Association

Diane Spicher, President
Veterans and Patriots United

Jane Richey, Local Coordinator
Vegango County Tea Party Patriots

Lynn Taylor, President
Virginia Institute for Public Policy
Tertium Quids

Dann Mead Smith, President/CEO
Washington Policy Center

Susan Loch, Co-Owner
WFYl 1180 AM

Julaine K. Appling President*
Wisconsin Family Council

Richard M. Esenberg, President & General
Counsel*
Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty

Scott Manley, Executive Vice President of
Government Relations
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Scott Suder, President*
Wisconsin Paper Council

Heather Weininger, Executive Director*
Wisconsin Right to Life

*Affiliation used for identification
purposes only.