

Caleb Na
9381 Steeple Ct., Laurel, MD 20723
(240) 302 - 3286
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Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate

RE: Senate Bill 4 - Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Senate and House of Delegates,

I am writing to express my strong opposition for Senate Bill SB4 - Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026. As a concerned citizen and attendee of an active church in Maryland, this bill effectively forces churches and charitable non-profits to stay silent on matters that directly affect their lives and community. The opposition to this bill is crucial to upholding the constitutional right to freedom of speech and of religion, and ensures that there is no division among those who can speak up in political matters in the state of Maryland.

The summary of the bill highlights the definition of “charitable organizations, which includes churches, prohibits political campaign activity within these bodies, and authorizes the Secretary of State and Attorney General to impose civil penalties and revoke state tax-exempt status for willful violations. Churches and charities will be required to declare nonpartisanship or otherwise face consequences equivalent to those mentioned above for violating said bill.

It is essential to recognize that when a community of people whose beliefs and desires rest on improving the quality of life is having its constitutional rights compromised. The passing of such a bill will only accelerate the way this state views churches and non-profit organizations and their contribution to this state. By intervening now and making a clear stance of opposition, we can continue to allow churches and many important bodies in the state of Maryland to operate with security.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill SB4 and prioritize the voices of the people. By opposing this bill, you can take a significant step towards ensuring that no division occurs in politics and that no group is silenced.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Caleb Na