

BILL NO: House Bill 0514  
TITLE: Charitable Organizations – Charitable Donation and Tax-Exempt Status –  
Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026)  
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters  
HEARING DATE: February 18, 2026  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to protecting the physical safety, economic security, and civil rights of women and their families across Maryland. In furtherance of that mission, WLC supports HB 514, which would prohibit charitable organizations from participating in or intervening in a political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate for public office.

Charitable organizations receive tax-exempt status and public trust because they are intended to serve the common good—not to influence electoral outcomes. Allowing charities to engage in candidate campaigns risks politicizing essential services, undermining public confidence, and effectively using publicly subsidized resources to influence elections.

Maintaining a clear boundary between charitable work and partisan politics protects the integrity of both our democratic system and the nonprofit sector. Charitable organizations serve diverse communities with differing political beliefs and must remain accessible and credible to all. Importantly, this prohibition does not silence nonprofit voices; charities may continue to engage in nonpartisan education, issue advocacy, and civic engagement. Rather, it ensures that charitable organizations remain focused on their missions and that elections are decided by voters—not by publicly subsidized institutions.

For these reasons, the Women's Law Center of Maryland supports HB 514 and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report to preserve the integrity of charitable organizations and protect public trust in both our nonprofit sector and democratic process.

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.*