



BILL NO: House Bill 514
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: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. **MNADV urges a favorable report for House Bill 514.**

House Bill 514 is designed to preserve the integrity of the nonprofit sector by codifying nonpartisanship into state law. For organizations like those in Maryland that rely on public trust, this bill acts as a protective shield against the increasing polarization of political life. When charities are seen as nonpartisan, they maintain a higher level of credibility across the political spectrum. Society benefits when there are neutral spaces where people of different political beliefs can work together for a common cause. MNADV enjoys support in this body on a bipartisan basis, and we want to keep it that way for domestic violence programs and survivors in the state.

House Bill 514 would ensure that Maryland nonprofits remain eligible for state and local tax exemptions (income, sales, and property tax). By explicitly prohibiting intervention in political campaigns, it helps organizations avoid the risk of losing these critical financial benefits.

In addition, it would insulate charities from being pressured by donors or political actors to take sides in elections. This allows nonprofits to focus entirely on their core missions—whether that is feeding the hungry, providing legal aid, assisting domestic violence and sexual assault survivors to achieve safety, or supporting education—without being treated as political tools. By preventing organizations from using tax-deductible donations for political campaigning, the bill ensures that charitable funds are used for the public good rather than influencing who wins or loses an election.

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 2151401
Tel: 301-51429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org



Importantly, SB 514 serves as a backstop. If federal laws like the Johnson Amendment (which prohibits 501(c)(3)s from political campaigning) are ever weakened or repealed, SB 514 would ensure those same protections remain in place at the state level for Maryland organizations.

Finally, SB 514 empowers the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to investigate violations and assess civil penalties (up to \$5,000 per violation). This creates a clear framework for accountability, ensuring that donors know their money is going toward mission-driven work rather than campaign ads. Please read MANO's testimony about this issue.

For all of the above reasons, **MNADV urges this committee to issue a favorable vote on House Bill 514.**

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 2151401
Tel: 301-51429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org