

As a Maryland resident, I respectfully oppose HB0514.

This legislation raises serious First Amendment concerns. The First Amendment reflects the foundational principles upon which the United States was established. It is protecting our freedom to express our beliefs, to think without government coercion independently. The government should not condition nonprofit status in a way that pressures organizations to control or limit the ideas they express. Charitable and faith-based organizations play a vital role in public discourse on moral and social issues. Broad or unclear definitions of “political intervention” risk chilling constitutionally protected speech and expanding government authority into civil society. This bill will infringe upon our constitutionally protected religious and political expression.

Additionally, revoking tax-exempt status would disproportionately harm local communities. Many nonprofits provide essential services such as food assistance, housing support, and education. Weakening these institutions ultimately hurts the very citizens they serve.

Government should not expand its regulatory reach in ways that discourage private charity and community-based solutions. I strongly urge the General Assembly to protect constitutional freedoms and the independence of Maryland’s nonprofit sector.