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Testimony in favor of SB4

Charitable Organizations – Charitable Donation and Tax-Exempt Status Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026)

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 11, 2026

My name is Sarah Basehart, and I am the Executive Director of Community Reach of Montgomery County, our mission is to empower those who are underserved in Montgomery County by addressing their essential needs to enhance the overall well-being of our community. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 4, the *Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026*.

Community Reach of Montgomery County works every day to provide safety net services to the residents of Montgomery County. We depend on public trust, volunteer engagement, and charitable donations to fulfill our mission. People make donations to us because they believe in the integrity of our work and they expect us to remain nonpartisan. This is not a new standard—501(c)(3) organizations have been prohibited from participating in political campaign activity for decades. Donors trust that their contributions will be used for community benefit, not political agendas.

Additionally, we always want the people we serve, our staff and volunteers to know that we operate in alignment with our mission and without partisan influence. As a mission-driven organization, credibility is our backbone. We depend on the confidence of the people we serve, the partners we collaborate with, and the donors who support our work.

SB 4 helps ensure that charitable status continues to mean something, and that Maryland nonprofits remain focused on service, not political campaigns.

For these reasons, on behalf of Community Reach of Montgomery County, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 4.