



Rainbow Place Shelter

Written Testimony in Support of SB 4

Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026

Maryland General Assembly: 2026 Regular Session

Position: SUPPORT

Submitted by: Olusina Adebayo, Executive Director, Rainbow Place Shelter

Organization: Rainbow Place Shelter, Montgomery County, Maryland

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 4, the Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026.

Rainbow Place Shelter is a nonprofit organization serving women and young adults experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County. Our work depends on public trust, donor confidence, and strong partnerships across government, faith communities, and the private sector. Maintaining the nonpartisan integrity of charitable organizations is essential to sustaining that trust and ensuring nonprofits remain focused on service delivery rather than political activity.

SB 4 reinforces an important principle: that charitable organizations receiving tax-exempt status and public support should remain nonpartisan and refrain from political campaign intervention. Clear guardrails around political activity help protect the credibility of the nonprofit sector and ensure that charitable resources are used to advance mission-driven work, not electoral outcomes.

From the perspective of frontline service providers, clarity and accountability in this area are beneficial. Nonprofits often operate in complex policy environments, and well-defined standards help organizations understand their responsibilities while preserving public confidence. By affirming nonpartisanship at the state

level, this bill strengthens transparency and reinforces ethical stewardship across Maryland's charitable community.

Importantly, SB 4 does not prevent nonprofits from engaging in nonpartisan education, advocacy, or policy discussions that relate directly to their missions. For organizations like Rainbow Place Shelter, the ability to educate policymakers and the public about homelessness, mental health, and housing stability remains critical. This bill appropriately distinguishes between prohibited political campaign activity and permissible mission-based engagement.

For these reasons, Rainbow Place Shelter supports SB 4 and its intent to uphold the integrity, neutrality, and public trust of Maryland's charitable organizations. We appreciate the General Assembly's commitment to strengthening accountability while preserving the vital role nonprofits play in addressing community needs.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Maryland's nonprofit sector.

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