

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2018

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable David J. Kautter
Acting Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
111 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Acting Commissioner Kautter:

We write to express significant concern regarding the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service's announcement that the IRS will no longer require certain tax-exempt organizations to identify the names of their individual donors and to strongly urge you to reverse the decision.

This announcement upends decades of practice under which 501(c)(4) groups that engage in issue advocacy are required to identify, in confidential filings, the names of individual donors who make significant financial contributions. This longstanding requirement is a commonsense way to prevent ineligible contributors—including foreign actors—from making illegal contributions in U.S. elections.

Our election laws expressly prohibit foreign nationals “from contributing, donating or spending funds in connection with any federal, state, or local election in the United States, either directly or indirectly.” Eliminating the requirement that organizations identify the source of their contributions threatens to render the foreign donation prohibition nearly impossible to police and enforce. Coupled with the Supreme Court's decision in the 2010 case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which opened the floodgates for corporate contributions to politically active organizations, your decision today can be expected to exacerbate the already fraught problem of “dark money” influencing our elections.

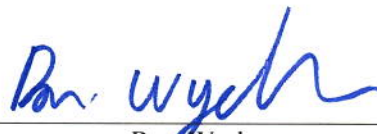
Americans have the right to know who is paying to influence our elections. We need to restore Americans' confidence in our political system—that means shining a light on the dark money entering our elections, not making it easier for special interests and foreign actors to exploit loopholes at the expense of the American people.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your decision and reinstate the requirement that these organizations identify their donors on their Form 990 filings.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



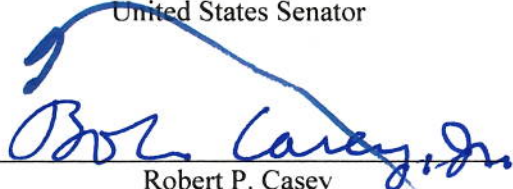
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



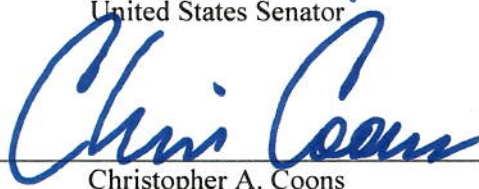
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



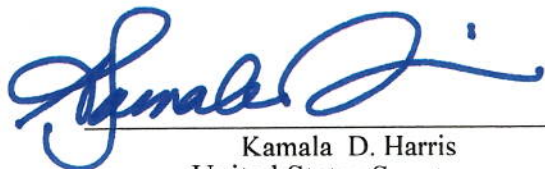
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



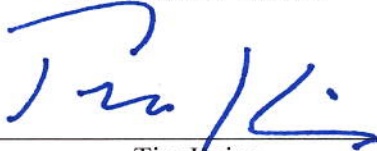
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



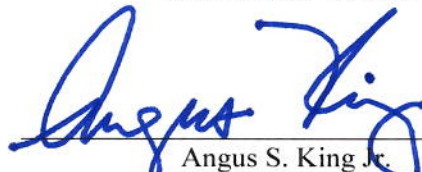
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



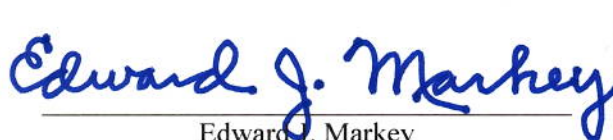
Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator



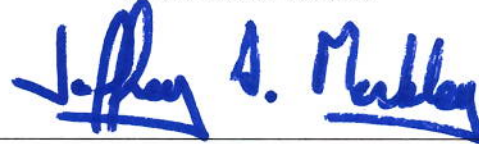
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



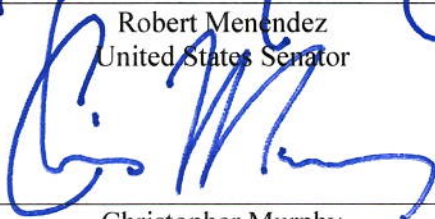
Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



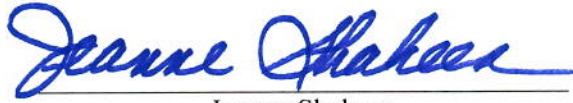
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



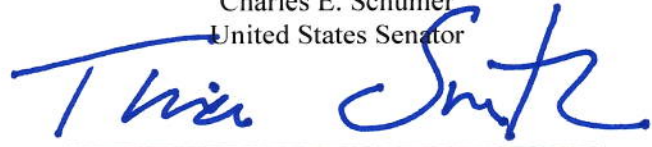
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



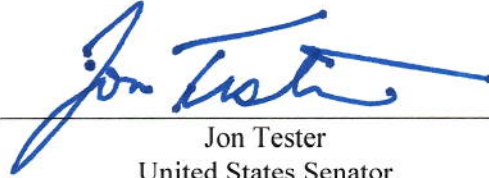
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator