

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2022

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Van Hollen and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

We respectfully request that you not include any riders prohibiting the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from promulgating rules related to political spending in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill.

Since *Citizens United*, a flood of dark money has entered our political system. 501(c)(4) organizations are often the beneficiaries of these funds, using them to engage in political activity.

Past appropriations bills have included several objectionable policy riders, including a rider preventing the IRS from revising or issuing new rules governing the political spending of 501(c)(4) organizations. These riders render the IRS unable to provide clear guidance to nonprofits on what types of activities are permissible. These riders are unnecessary because the rulemaking process itself provides ample opportunities for public debate and dissent to ensure that the rulemaking reflects the interests of the public.

To ensure that the FY 2023 FSGG bill enables agencies to effectively carry out their duties and serve the American people, we urge you to refrain from including policy riders that would impede the IRS's ability to proceed with necessary and appropriate rules governing political activity.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



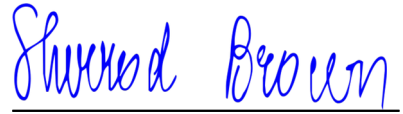
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



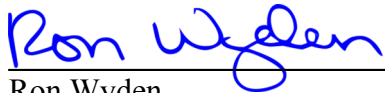
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



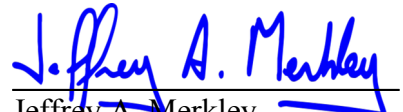
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



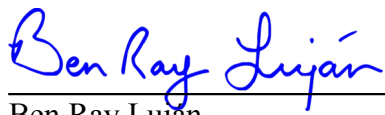
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



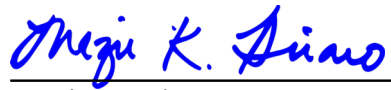
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator

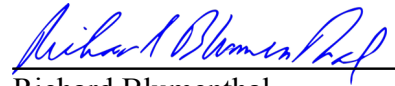


John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator




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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



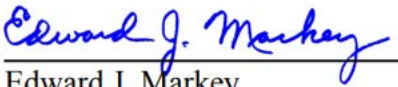
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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator