

Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act

Background

The charitable nonprofit sector employs 10% of the U.S. workforce and partners with all levels of government to provide essential services and promote the public good. Yet, there is no one in the federal government charged with ensuring the challenges and concerns of nonprofits are heard and/or addressed. The Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act would provide the structure needed to enhance government-nonprofit partnerships for the public good.

The Challenge

More than 100 committees and subcommittees of Congress have some subject-matter jurisdiction over the nonprofit sector, but none has primary responsibility for addressing challenges and concerns specific to nonprofits, much less championing their work in communities. In the executive branch, the for-profit sector has the Commerce Department and Small Business Administration to promote business interests.

The charitable sector is not seeking to establish a new bureaucracy or funding programs; rather the sector needs a place at the federal level that replicates what charitable nonprofits do in their communities – they collaborate with government to identify challenges, develop solutions, and partner to achieve lasting, effective impact.

Legislative Solution

The Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act would establish three bodies for the exchange of ideas, while also identifying several long-standing challenges in need of redress.

Legislative Solution

Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act (H.R. 7587)

- Would establish a White House Office on Nonprofit Sector Partnership, an Interagency Council, and Federal Advisory Board, giving nonprofits a voice in federal policy.
- Would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to issue quarterly nonprofit jobs/wages reports, create a commission to promote enforcement of pro-nonprofit provisions in the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance, and promote volunteerism.
- **1. White House Office on Nonprofit Sector Partnership**, led by an Assistant to the President, would make recommendations on federal policies to strengthen the nonprofit sector and its partnership with government.
- 2. Interagency Council on Nonprofit Sector Partnership, made up of leads in all federal agencies and departments, would work with charitable nonprofits for the purpose of streamlining coordination and identifying and reducing burdens on the sector.
- **3. Federal Advisory Board on the Nonprofit Sector,** appointed by the President and Congress and made up of community-based and national nonprofit leaders, would serve as a forum for the sector to consult with policymakers.

Together, these entities would identify challenges and make recommendations on improving the IRS review process for tax-exempt status; promoting volunteerism and national service; improving federal government enforcement of nonprofit protections in the grantmaking process; and securing parity with the for-profit sector on employment and wage data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

What You Can Do

It is essential that nonprofits' needs are considered at the beginning of public policy development, decision-making, and implementation, rather than treated as an afterthought.

Will you cosponsor the Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act (H.R. 7587)?