



1/14/2020

Dear Lawmaker:

On behalf of thousands of Americans for Prosperity-West Virginia activists, I urge you to support SB 16, the Protect Our Right to Unite Act when it is voted on in committee and on the floor. **This vote may be recorded in our 2020 session legislative scorecard.**

SB 16, sponsored by Senator Mike Azinger, would protect citizens' First Amendment rights by precluding government entities from requiring the information of individuals who support nonprofit entities to be disclosed.

- This bill does not alter disclosure triggers for 501 organizations within current election code or lobbying laws and allows disclosure if a warrant requires it.
- The narrow intent of this legislation is to prevent potentially politically motivated bureaucracies from broadcasting nonprofit donor information, which often results in the intimidation or harassment of individuals due to their support for their preferred passions.
- Across the country powerful special interest groups are finding ways to partner with government in order to undermine or eliminate their ideological competition, including the disclosure of donations to nonprofit organizations.
- To be clear, the government has no prevailing interest in the contributions of private citizens to nonprofit social welfare organizations. Failing to protect the privacy of individuals' charitable giving is a distinct threat to every West Virginias' right to free speech and participation in the free market of ideas. That's why it is absolutely imperative that strong, proactive steps like SB 16 be taken to ensure that every Mountaineers' privacy and speech is protected.
- This bill previously passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to vote yes in support of SB 16.

Sincerely,

Jason Huffman  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity-West Virginia