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May 5, 2016

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez
Chairwoman
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 2855 (Frazier) - Charitable solicitations and financial disclosures.

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez,

We respectfully urge you to oppose Assembly Bill 2855 (Frazier). This bill is overreaching and places an undue burden on nonprofits. We believe that placing a link to the attorney general's website on printed solicitation materials and nonprofit websites does not ensure a higher level of transparency than currently exists. Nor will doing so in any way "expose questionable activities by charities" as the bill's author portends.

The bill is an over-reaction to a small number of high-profile cases of bad actors in an otherwise highly regarded sector. Moreover, the bill is duplicative as a plethora of information about charities is already available on the website of the State Attorney General and the Internal Revenue Service. Data about nonprofits and their performance are also easily accessed through a host of recognized national watch dog and accountability groups such as Guidestar and Charity Navigator.

The author of the bill "contends that it makes good sense to help consumers ensure that their dollars would be well spent." In actuality, research by the USD Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research has repeatedly documented that consumers in San Diego and throughout California (both clients and donors) consistently express a great deal of confidence in nonprofits to deliver high quality services and to spend their money wisely.¹

Furthermore, our data shows that public confidence in nonprofits far surpasses the level of confidence expressed in government and for-profit entities. Given these facts, it begs the question if the legislature has plans to enact similar measures for government and for-profit corporations as well. Finally, while not quite the same as wearing a scarlet letter, we believe that the labeling

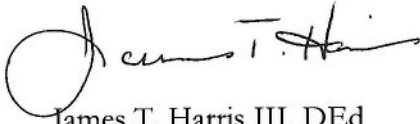
¹ See [State of Nonprofits and Philanthropy 2015](#) at

https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/documents/nonprofit/2015_USD_State%20Nonprofits%20Report_Final%20Draft_June.pdf and [Causes Count 2014](#) at http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/soles/CalNonprofits_CausesCount_8.14.14.pdf.

required in this bill sends a message to consumers that their trust in nonprofits is somehow misplaced. We believe that approach unfairly erodes the trust of the public.

For these reasons, we respectfully request you to oppose AB 2855. We are available for further discussion about these issues or the research findings at any time.

Sincerely,



James T. Harris III, DEd
President
University of San Diego



Laura Dietrick, PhD
Director
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Timothy L. O'Malley, PhD
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As of May 6, 2016, the following nonprofits have signed on this letter:

- Community Housing Works
- Fieldstone Foundation
- Home of Guiding Hands
- Teri, Inc.
- The San Diego Hunger Coalition
- Employment and Community Options