

Nonprofit SEAT Act [H.R. 3245](#)

Background

Nationally, the charitable nonprofit sector employs 10% of the private U.S. workforce and partners with governments at all levels to promote the public good (11% in Illinois). Yet, **there is no one in the federal government charged with ensuring the challenges and concerns of charitable organizations are heard and addressed.** It is essential that the needs of nonprofits and their communities are considered at the beginning of public policy process, rather than treated as an afterthought.

In the federal government, engagement with the charitable nonprofit sector is diffused with no committee of Congress or department having primary responsibility for addressing challenges and concerns specific to frontline nonprofits. In contrast, in the executive branch, the for-profit sector has the Commerce Department and Small Business Administration to promote business interests around the world and in communities.

The charitable sector needs a place at the federal level where it can collaborate with government to identify challenges, develop solutions, and partner to achieve lasting, effective impact for the public good.

Rationale

The **Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together Act (H.R. 3245)** would establish structures for the exchange of information and ideas, while also advancing solutions to several long-standing challenges.

- **White House Office on Nonprofit Sector Partnership**, led by an Assistant to the President, would make recommendations on

Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together (SEAT) Act

- Establishes a White House Office, an Interagency Council, and Advisory Board to give nonprofits a voice in federal policy.
- Creates a commission to promote enforcement of protections in the OMB Uniform Guidance, require quarterly nonprofit jobs/wages reports, and promote volunteerism.

federal policies to strengthen the nonprofit sector and its partnership with government.

- **Interagency Council on Nonprofit Sector Partnership**, made up of leads in all federal agencies and departments, would work with nonprofits to streamline coordination and reduce burdens on the sector.
- **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.

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