Dear Representative [NAME],

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I work for [NONPROFIT NAME]. I am writing to you today to **express my concerns regarding the proposed legislation, H463,** which aims to prohibit state department sponsorship partnerships with nonprofit/nongovernmental organizations.

My primary concern is that the bill poorly defines the fundamental difference between charitable ‘donations’ and ‘sponsorship’ agreements between state agencies and nonprofits/nongovernmental organizations.

This bill paints ‘sponsorships’ as a ‘charitable donation’ which they are not. Sponsorships between government entities and the private sector (which includes nonprofits) involve an MOU or contract in which a mutually exchange of benefit occurs.

Project Filter is a great example of this as it relates to preventing youth vaping and smoking. Project Filter can identify community events statewide where youth and parents are likely to attend and pay for access to those events. This allows them the benefit of interacting with that audience to provide resources and educational materials. The vast majority of community events happening in cities and towns around our state are hosted by nonprofits and/or nongovernmental organizations.

This bill could lead to legal challenges around the definitions of contracts and donations as well as create added expense for state agencies who must find more costly ways of reaching Idaho citizens to provide awareness of services. Additionally, it adds a layer of bureaucracy and red tape for the private sector (e.g. nonprofits) to partner with state government while also codifying a dangerous precedent to provide additional authority to the Governor’s office.

We would **propose the following amendments to this bill**:

1. **Remove** any reference to ‘sponsorship’
2. **Remove** the Governor’s office as an approval mechanism for contracts, MOUs, sponsorship agreements, etc., and allow those decisions to be made at the agency director level and/or commission Executive Director level.
3. Simply **limit the scope of the bill** to prohibiting charitable ‘donations’ from the state and define a donation as a contribution for charitable purposes in which the donor receives nothing of value in return.

In short, we support the concept of prohibiting ‘donations’ that have no mutual value exchange.

However, we do not support the current version of the bill in which sponsorships—contracts entailing mutual value exchange—between a state agency and a nonprofit/nongovernmental organization are prohibited.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your work and dedication to our home state and every Idahoan.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]

[YOUR ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT INFO]