Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together Act

The charitable nonprofit sector employs 10% of the U.S. workforce and partners with governments at all levels to provide essential services. Yet, there is no one in the federal government charged with ensuring the challenges and concerns of nonprofits are heard or addressed. It is essential that the needs of nonprofits and their communities are considered at the beginning of public policy development and implementation, rather than as an afterthought.

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. 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. The Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together (SEAT) Act of 2023 provides the needed structure to enhance government-nonprofit partnerships for the public good.

What the Legislation Would Do: The Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together (SEAT) Act of 2023 would establish structures for the exchange of ideas, while also advancing solutions to several long-standing challenges.

1. **White House Office on Nonprofit Sector Partnership** would make recommendations on federal policies to strengthen the nonprofit sector and its partnership with government. The office would be tasked with: (a) convening a grant reform commission to strengthen nonprofit-government contractual partnerships; and (b) identifying a federal agency to develop a portal to streamline state charitable registration and reporting requirements.

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.

In addition, the bill would: (a) promote volunteerism through improved data and increased access to national service programs; (b) direct the Bureau of Labor Statistics provide data on nonprofit sector employment and wages, similar to data it provides the for-profit sector; and (c) improve the IRS review process for tax-exempt status.

The Ask

Charitable nonprofits ask that Representatives cosponsor the Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together Act of 2023 (H.R. 3245).

For more information: David Heinen, Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy, North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, 919-986-9224 (cell) or dheinen@ncnonprofits.org.