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PRESS RELEASE • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 150 Organizations Stand with Center for American Progress

Coalition of civil society, advocacy, and nonpartisan groups issues joint statement defending First Amendment rights amid legal attack on the Center for American Progress

September 1, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 150 organizations led by Nonprofits Together issued a joint public statement of support for the Center for American Progress (CAP), a nonpartisan think tank, in response to a recent legal attack against the organization by the Trump administration. The coalition of civil rights groups, policy organizations, and civic institutions warned that the action represents a broader effort to suppress independent analysis and silence organizations that challenge government policy.

The 150 organizations stated that every organization has a right to publish evidence-based, independent analysis of government policy and how that is the cornerstone of American democracy, regardless of which party holds power and who sits in the Oval Office. The full text of the statement is below:

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Since our nation's founding, the rights to free speech, association, and the press have been the bedrock on which American democracy has thrived. We reaffirm, as has each generation before us, our unqualified commitment to the First Amendment and its foundational protections. In so doing, we stand in strong solidarity with the Center for American Progress (CAP), a nonpartisan think tank, and its right to publish expert analysis on the impact of the Trump administration's—or any administration's—policies. The free exchange of ideas—including ideas that are inconvenient to those in power—is critical for Americans to understand the nature and impact of the actions of their government.

President Trump's recent legal attack on CAP takes aim at the heart of these foundational rights, and is the latest salvo in the Administration's ongoing efforts to suppress the speech of organizations that challenge their policies, defend the rule of law and protect civil rights and vulnerable communities. Independent sources of expert analysis allow Americans to better understand government policy and how it's affecting them. Experts across or even within think tanks often disagree; it is the right of every American to freely access their findings and form their own opinions. Attempting to silence any of these sources of information degrades our free exchange of ideas, and risks leaving only distortions in the public square.

This is infinitely more damaging to our democratic ideals when done for purely political purposes. There are few issues more fundamental to the First Amendment than the right of an independent organization to publish evidence-based analysis of a government policy and how it is or is not working.

This is not about ideology or partisanship. In a recent editorial, the Washington Post rightly noted that “Think tanks are as American as baseball, jazz and apple pie. They perform an unsung role in holding governments accountable at all levels...Such organizations and their supporters should not fear legal harassment when elected officials dislike their work.” This is true regardless of who is in power, and who is issuing public critiques of that power.

We stand with the Center for American Progress, not in agreement with every view they hold, but in steadfast support for their rights to voice those views freely and without political retribution.

SIGNATORIES

Acacia Center for Justice

Advancement Project

All Voting is Local

Alliance for Justice

America's Voice

American Civil Liberties Union

American Constitution Society

American Federation of Teachers

American Oversight

Americans Against Government Censorship

Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund

Americans for Tax Fairness

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Asian Law Caucus

Brennan Center for Justice

Campaign for Southern Equality

Campaign Legal Center

Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Democracy & Technology

Center for International Environmental Law

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center for Responsible Lending

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Center on Faith and Justice

CenterLink

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

Coalition on Human Needs

Common Cause

CommonDefense.us

Community Change

Constitutional Accountability Center

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Court Accountability

Defend the Vote Action Fund

Demand Progress Education Fund

Democracy 21

Democracy Defenders Fund

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Drug Policy Alliance

Dwight C. Jones Center for Civic Engagement at Virginia Union University

Earthjustice Action

Economic Policy Institute

Equal Rights Advocates

Fair and Just Prosecution

Fair Count

Fair Elections Center

Fair Fight Action

Faith in Democracy

Faith Leaders for Ending Gun Violence

Feminist Majority Foundation

Florida Council of Churches

Free DC

Free Speech For People

Freedom From Religion Foundation

Freedom of the Press Foundation

Friends Committee on National Legislation

FWD.us

GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives

GIFFORDS

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law)

GLSEN (DBA Glisten)

Greenpeace USA

Guttmacher Institute

Hands United

Hispanic Federation

Human Rights Campaign

Human Rights First

Impact Fund

Indivisible

Interfaith Alliance

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Jobs With Justice

Justice Connection

Keep Our Republic

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)

Lambda Legal

Lawyers for Good Government

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

LDF

League of United Latin American Citizens
League of Women Voters
Local Progress
Maine Council of Churches
Melville Charitable Trust
Movement Advancement Project
MoveOn
National Abortion Federation
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for LGBTQ Rights
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Council of Churches USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Nonprofits
National Education Association
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Homelessness Law Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Legal Aid & Defender Association
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Nonprofits Together
North Carolina Council of Churches
Onyx Impact
Oxfam America

Passion2Plant Network
Pax Christi USA
People For the American Way
Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE)
Popular Democracy
Progressive State Leaders Committee
Project On Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
Public Citizen
Public Justice
Public Rights Project
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
RepresentUs
Reproductive Freedom for All
Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center
Roosevelt Institute
SAGE
Secure Elections Network
SEIU
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Sojourners
The Fenway Institute
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Media and Democracy Project
The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania (ROC PA)
The Sikh Coalition
True North Research
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Church of Christ
Vera Institute of Justice
Veterans For Peace-Chapter 113-Hawaii
Voices for Progress

Voto Latino

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

Wren Collective

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