



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
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May 21, 2026

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Fidelity Investments
Charitable Gift Fund
Foundation, Inc.
82 Devonshire St
Boston, MA 02109

Donor Advised Charitable
Giving, Inc.
211 Main St
San Francisco, CA 94105

Vanguard Charitable
Endowment Program
100 Vanguard Blvd
Mail Stop D29
Malvern, PA 19355

Re: Donor-Advised Fund Restrictions Affecting Southern Poverty Law Center

Dear Donor Advised Fund Sponsor:

We write to express our concern regarding the decision by Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund, and Donor Advised Charitable Giving, Inc. to stop or restrict payments to the Southern Poverty Law Center (“SPLC”) following a highly contested indictment by the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”). As attorneys general, many of us are the chief regulators of nonprofits, charities, and charitable trusts in our states, and serve as representatives of the public and donor intent.¹ This decision raises serious concerns that you are allowing the DOJ’s selective political targeting of a charity to impact your donor-advised giving decisions.

This indictment follows President Trump’s September 2025 [directive](#) to the DOJ to investigate and potentially prosecute organizations and entities, including nonprofits and charities, that support or fund causes and activities contrary to a political agenda—in blatant violation of charities’ First Amendment rights to free speech and free association.² The indictment follows a broader pattern of targeting nonprofits and charitable organizations that oppose the administration’s extremist ideology and actions with threats of prosecution, investigations, revocation of exempt status, funding disruptions, and other consequences.³

¹ See Restatement (Third) of Trusts § 94; Restatement of the Law, Charitable Nonprofit Orgs. § 5.01; *Bogert’s The Law of Trusts and Trustees* § 322.

² See, e.g., *Ams. for Prosperity v. Bonta*, 594 U.S. 595, 606 (2021); *Citizens United v. FEC*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010); *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 21 (1976).

³ Examples include executive orders and public statements [threatening private organizations that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion](#); publicly calling for an end to tax exemptions for (Footnote Continued on Next Page)

Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund Foundation, Inc.
Donor Advised Charitable Giving, Inc.
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
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There are reports that the Trump Administration ordered the DOJ to rush the indictment of SPLC despite concerns about the weakness of the case.⁴ We are concerned that your actions will contribute to allowing sham investigations or politically motivated proceedings to suppress, chill, or dismantle organizations doing important work on behalf of civil rights, public safety, and democracy for simply exercising their protected First Amendment rights. News reports⁵ have also noted your nondisclosure of other nonprofits to whom you have paused donations, amplifying concerns that you may be helping to further the administration's blatant viewpoint discrimination campaign.

Institutions that administer donor-advised funds have an important role to play in protecting charitable giving from politicization and infringement on the First Amendment rights of charities and the donors who support them. We urge you to reconsider your actions and policies that would undermine donor intent and advance a broader effort to weaponize government power against disfavored nonprofit organizations simply for exercising their protected First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,



KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General of Minnesota

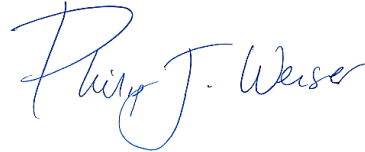
universities and charitable organizations that President Trump believes oppose his agenda; and [threatening to revoke student loan forgiveness eligibility for public-service organizations that support immigrants](#).

⁴ See Tierney Sneed, *Lawmakers accuse Justice Department of rushing SPLC indictment, citing whistleblower reports*, CNN (May 1, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/01/politics/splc-indictment-rushed-whistleblower-reports>.

⁵ See Ron Lieber, *Schwab Affiliate Halts Customer Donations to Southern Poverty Law Center*, N.Y. TIMES (May 1, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/01/business/schwab-donations-southern-poverty-law-center.html>.



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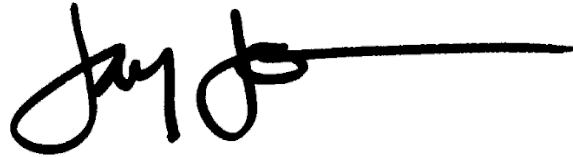
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