

November 17, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Jim Jordan Chairman, House Judiciary Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Opposition to H.R. 1109 - Litigation Transparency Act of 2025

Dear Speaker Johnson and Chairman Jordan:

We write you to express our strong opposition to H.R. 1109 - <u>Litigation Transparency Act of</u> <u>2025</u>. The sweeping disclosure mandates in this bill threaten our core American principles of personal privacy, confidentiality, and freedom of speech and association.

This legislation would require litigants to preemptively disclose detailed information about private financial arrangements, such as litigation funding agreements, independent from the discovery process and without any finding of relevance by a judge. The bill's forced disclosure mandates would broadly apply to any number of political organizations, religious groups, law firms, or individual plaintiffs that rely on outside support to vindicate their rights.

Critically, compelled disclosure of private financial arrangements would force litigants to unveil the identity of donors – violating donor privacy rights and exposing them to threats of harassment and retaliation. The privacy interests at stake here are not abstract. We have seen how disclosure regimes can be easily weaponized by bad actors, particularly those seeking to attack and intimidate political opponents.

It should not require reminding that conservative groups and religious organizations like ours have historically been victim to such targeted disclosure tactics. One can imagine the serious risks posed in unveiling the identity of individuals supporting lawsuits over heated issues like religious liberty, abortion, or transgender surgeries performed on minors. It is for good reason that the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the First Amendment rights afforded to donors and has accordingly shot down similar compulsory disclosure laws (<u>Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta</u>).

Ultimately, the compelled disclosure mandates in H.R. 1109 threaten to chill speech as private individuals who would otherwise support litigation advancing important causes are deterred by the possibility of having their identity exposed. Furthermore, this bill jeopardizes attorney-client privilege as plaintiffs could be forced to reveal confidential financial agreements containing privileged legal strategy.

While foreign manipulation of our nation's courts is an issue that deserves serious attention, such concerns should be addressed with a narrow approach that protects national security without compromising the privacy of Americans. By casting an unnecessarily wide net, this bill does precisely the opposite, undermining donors' constitutionally afforded speech rights and eroding the long-protected confidential financial arrangements of innocent litigants in the process.

If adopted, H.R. 1109 will have a chilling effect on free speech and association and directly threaten the privacy rights of Americans. The end result will be fewer Americans having the resources or willingness to bring legitimate claims, which threatens to undermine future legal battles over issues critical to our movement.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you and the Committee to reject H.R. 1109 - Litigation Transparency Act of 2025.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jenny Beth Martin Gene Hamilton

Honorary Chairman President & Co-Founder Tea Party Patriots Action America First Legal

Ken Blackwell

Former Treasurer of Ohio

Nicole Neily

Executive Director

Parents Defending Education Action

James Taylor

President and CEO

Heartland Institute

Dr. OJ Oleka

CEO

State Financial Officers Foundation

Cameron Sholty
Executive Director
Heartland Impact
Mike Howell
President

Oversight Project Christina Sandefur

Executive Vice President
Goldwater Institute
Andy Mangione
Senior Vice President
AMAC Action

Jason Isaac
Executive Director Rusty Brown

American Energy Institute Director

Freedom Foundation

Sal Nuzzo

Executive Director Trent England
Consumers Defense Executive Director
Save Our States

Ashley Baker Executive Director The Committee for Justice

Andy Bakker Executive Director Liberty Alliance USA

Marty Connors

Chair

Alabama Center Right Coalition

Tim Jones

Fmr. Speaker, Missouri House

Founder, Leadership for America Institute

Caleb Brown

CEO

Bluegrass Institute

Kevin Riffe Chairman

West Virginia Center-Right Coalition

Stephanie Smith

Executive Director

Alabama Policy Action

Audrey Lane President

Garden State Initiative

Dave Trabert

CEO

Kansas Policy Institute

Kerri Toloczko

Chair

Southwest Florida Center Right Coalition

Jonathan Small

President

Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs

Chris Burger

CEO

Rotunda Group

Walter Blanks Jr.

Executive Director

Black Americans United for Tennessee

Stephen Stepanek

President

Pine Tree Public Policy Institute

Raul Lopez, Tommy Vallejos

Chairman of the Board &

Executive Director

Latinos for Tennessee

Mike Stenhouse

CEO

RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity

Benita Cotton-Orr

Chair

Georgia Center-Right Coalition

Spencer Bone

Chair

Kansas City Center-Right Coalition

Aaron Gulbransen

CEO

Tennessee Conservatives Coalition

Dave Bond

Spokesman

People For Opportunity

