



Resolution #17-08

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE “JOHNSON AMENDMENT” THAT PROTECTS HOUSES OF WORSHIP FROM BECOMING CENTERS OF PARTISAN POLITICS

WHEREAS, current law strikes the right balance for houses of worship and non-profit organizations that enjoy favored tax-exempt status, by allowing their engagement in advocacy to address moral and political issues, but prevents them from instructing members to vote for or against a candidate; and,

WHEREAS, changing the law to repeal or weaken the “Johnson Amendment”, the section of the tax code that prevents most tax-exempt nonprofit organizations and houses of worship from endorsing or opposing candidates, would harm houses of worship and nonprofit organizations by creating a highly divisive and detrimental relationship with their constituents and parishioners by allowing them to engage in partisan politics and issuing endorsements; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers give houses of worship and other tax exempt entities financial benefits in exchange for their refraining from endorsing candidates ;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County will oppose any repeal or weakening of the Johnson Amendment, thereby protecting the independence and integrity of nonprofit organizations, houses of worship and other religious organizations in the charitable sector.

Submitted by: Diana Lee Carey, Democratic Party of Orange County Vice Chair – West County

July 3, 2017

**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
At its July 24, 2017 Central Committee Meeting**