AB 2855 is excessive, burdensome and unnecessary. It overreaches in two ways:

- It would require all charities to include a “prominent link” to the Attorney General’s website on their website home page, AND
- It would require that any “document produced by, or on behalf of, a charity for the solicitation for charitable purposes” must include a link to the Attorney General’s website.

Taken together, AB 2855 would require every charity to include what amounts to a “warning label” on their website and nearly every document they produce redirecting donors and others to the state’s top law enforcement’s website. Every invoice from a preschool, every invitation to a pancake breakfast, every email with a “donate now” link, every letter about symphony tickets, every newsletter, flyer, and so forth, from any nonprofit would be affected. It’s also problematic for online services such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter where users do not control the headings or the order of what is displayed. Out of state charities may have a very difficult time customizing the content of their emails to Californians who are on their lists.

Mandating content in this way would be expensive and burdensome, and would detrimentally interfere with nonprofits’ ability to communicate with their constituents and the public.

**When they say charity, what does that include?**

Here’s how the California Attorney General defines a charity: “If the organization is classified as a California nonprofit public benefit corporation or has received federal tax exemption under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), it is a charity. Under the traditional common law definition, charitable purposes include relief from poverty, advancement of education, religion and other purposes beneficial to the community.” This includes food banks, community arts organizations, pet rescue groups, community foundations and others.

**But shouldn’t nonprofits be transparent?**

Of course. In fact, California nonprofits are already required to disclose financial information, salaries, programmatic accomplishments, percentages spent on fundraising and on administration, and much more. The federally required documents are readily available to the public free at www.guidestar.org. The California Attorney General provides easy online access to the California forms of nonprofits and a notice of whether a nonprofit is up-to-date on all its filings. In fact, the analysis of the bill conducted by the policy committee notes multiple disclosures already required including tax-exempt status and percentages of requested gifts that would be tax-deductible as well as limitations on fundraising expenses. This bill adds unnecessary requirements which impugn an already highly transparent community.

CalNonprofits supports transparency and disclosure that is meaningful and we support strong enforcement. Of the four bills referenced in the AB 2855 policy committee analysis, CalNonprofits supported three.

CalNonprofits worked with Assemblymember Irwin and Attorney General Harris on last year’s AB 556 which strengthened disclosure requirements for charity fundraisers and established a longer statute of limitations for enforcement against fraud.

Similarly, CalNonprofits worked with Assemblymember Feuer on AB 2327 and did not oppose its enhanced penalties for violations of the Nonprofit Integrity Act and designation of AG authority to suspend charitable registrations of organizations in violation.

CalNonprofits also supported SB 2015 by Senator Sher in 2000 which increased the AG’s enforcement reach including imposition of late fees, suspension, revocation and ability to impose criminal penalties against charities for violations of the Uniform Supervision of Trustees for Charitable Purposes Act.

**How much will AB 2855 cost California?**

This bill would be expensive for the State of California. The Office of the Attorney General would be tasked with turning AB 2855’s vague requirements into regulations, enforcing those regulations by monitoring the websites and solicitations of the more than 70,000 charities in California alone, not to mention nonprofits from anywhere in the world who solicit donations from supporters residing in California. Also, since AB 2855 raises constitutional issues, the AG’s Office will have to defend the state in likely litigation. All this could add up to a hefty price tag for the state and taxpayers. And of course AB 2855 saddles all of the state’s charities - big, medium and small - with a harmful and confusing disclosure requirement, adding to their costs of doing business and taking time and resources away from their delivery of services to Californians in need or in crisis and jeopardizing donations thanks to AB 2855’s suggestion of wrong-doing by conscientious organizations.

**Who opposes AB2855?**

More than six hundred organizations oppose AB 2855, including the United Ways of California, California State Parks Foundation, State Humane Association of California, the Nature Conservancy, the Humane Society of the United States, League of California Community Foundations, Habitat for Humanity, California Association of Museums, California Professional Firefighters, California Arts Advocates, the American Heart Association, California Association of Food Banks and California’s leading grant-making associations.

For more information, contact Nancy Berlin, Policy Director, CalNonprofits
213.500.2274 nancyb@calnonprofits.org
These organizations have voiced their opposition to AB2855:

- 18 Reasons
- 18th Street Arts Center
- 24th St Theatre
- 42nd Street Moon
- A THOUSAND JOYS, INC.
- A Vision of Health
- A.L.L.E.N. Inc.
- AANHCP-Association for the Advancement of Natural Horse Care Practices
- AANHCP Monterey Peninsula Branch
- Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange
- Access
- ACROSANCT
- Acterra
- Actors and Others for Animals
- Adam Leventhal Memorial School & Museum (Adam's Forge)
- Adopt a Family Foundation
- Adopt A Family of Marin
- Aqantis
- ALAMEDA HOMELESS NETWORK
- Midway Shelter Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence
- Alcohol & Drug Awareness Program
- Ali Akbar College of Music
- All of Gods Children Group Home
- All Peoples Community Center
- Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence
- Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits
- Aly & Izy Foundation
- American Canyon Family Resource Center
- American Friends of the Ariela Foundation (Ariela U.S.)
- American Outreach Foundation
- American River Natural History Assoc.
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- American Society on Aging
- American Sports Institute
- Anaerobe Society of the Americas
- Angels Nest TLP
- Animal Friends Rescue Project
- Animal Welfare Assistance Group
- Antenna Theater
- ARCC Center Foundation
- Arkansas Nonprofit Alliance
- Art Foundation of Desert Hot Springs
- Arts Alliance of Three Rivers
- Arts Council of Placer County
- Arts for L.A.
- Arts for Oakland Kids
- Arts Orange County
- Asian Art Museum of San Francisco
- Asian Pacific Community Fund
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)
- Asian Women's Shelter
- Aspire Creative Arts Program
- Association of California Symphony Orchestras
- Association of Certified Fraud Specialists
- Audubon California
- Autism Advocates in Action Support Group
- Autism Deaf Empowerment Advocacy Foundation
- Avenal Community Health Center
- Awaken Arts
- Axis Advocacy
- Bakersfield SPCA
- Balboa Park Cultural Partnership
- Bay Area Biotechnology Education Consortium
- Bay Area Discovery Museum
- Bay Area Justice Funders Network
- Bay Area Nonprofits
- Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative
- Bay Valley Conference
- Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition
- Benicia Historical Museum
- Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action
- Berkeley Student COOP
- Big Sur Health Center
- Black Arts Los Angeles, Inc.
- Blood Centers of California
- Bolsa Chica Land Trust
- Bourne and Associates
- Boys & Girls Club of Stanton
- Breast Cancer Resource Center
- Bright Montessori Preschool and Family Center
- Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music
- CAFM (Community Alliance for Healthy Minds)
- California Aquatic Therapy & Wellness Center, Inc, DBA Pools of Hope
- California Arts Advocates
- California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity
- California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.
- California Association of Museums
- California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits)
- California Association of Private School Organizations
- California Bicycle Coalition
- California Budget & Policy Center
- California Center for Economic Initiatives
- California Church IMPACT
- California Coalition for Youth
- California Conference for Equality and Justice
- California Council of Land Trusts
- California Grand Jurors' Assoc.
- California Health Advocates
- California Hepatitis C Task Force, Inc.
- California Historic Route 66 Association
- California Interfaith Power & Light
- California Invasive Plant Council
- California Land Stewardship Institute
- California Museum of Art at Thousand Oaks
- California NOW
- California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
- California Professional Firefighters
- California ReLeaf
- California State Alliance of YMCAs
- California State Parks Foundation
- California State University at Fresno
- California Symphony
- California Wilderness Coalition
- Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
- Californians for the Arts
- Canopy
- Garden School of Sacramento
- Care of the Soul Foundation, Inc.
- Carsbad Community Gardens Collaborative
- Casa Major, Inc.
- Catalina Island Museum
- Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc.
- Cedar's of Marin
- Center for Community Solutions
- Center for Creative Land Recycling
- Center for Human Services
- Center for Living and Learning
- Center for Non-Profits
- Center for Nonprofit Advancement
- Center for Policy Analysis
- Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
- Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership
- Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE )
- CFIDS & Fibromyalgia Self-Help Program
- Chemotherapy Children Center
- ChangeLab Solutions
- Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra
- Chanticleer
- Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center
- Children of Shelters
- Children's Playtime Productions
- Chinimegas Ranch Foundation
- Chinese Performing Arts of America
- Choix Vocational Services
- Chooda
- Chrysalis
- Citadel Ministries, Inc.
- City Garage Theatre
- Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre
- Coastal Kids Home Care
- Collegia Care
- Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Community & Employment links
- Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.
- Community Action North Bay
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Community Counts Inc.
- Community Housing Partnership
- Community Initiatives
- Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County
- Community Partners
- CompassPoint
- Computer History Museum
- Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association
- Connect Health Care
- Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, Inc.
- Conservation Corps of Long Beach
- Contra Costa Youth Council
- Cope Family Center
- Council on Foundations
- Courage Campaign Institute
- Craft and Folk Art Museum
- Creating Communities that Work
- Creative Connections Inc.
- Croatian Cultural Center
- CSU, Fullerton Pollak Library
- Curtain Call Theatre at The Russian River
- Dance Resource Center
- Davis Community Meals
- DEAF Media, Inc.
- Del Norte Child Care Council
- Del Norte Senior Center, Inc.
- Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement
- Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc.
- Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
- Dragon Productions Theatre Company
- DrawBridge
- Dublin Historical Preservation Association
- Earth-Spirit, Inc
- EarthShare California
- Ecology Center
- Education Francaise de Sacramento
- El Dorado County Historical Society
- El Sereno Bicentennial Committee
- Elk Altar Society, Inc.
- EmpowerTech
- Environmental Defense Center
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Environmental Working Group
- Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center
- Eth-Noh-Tec Kinetic Story Theater
- Exceptional Needs Network
- Exhibit Envoy
- Exploratorium
- F.I.S.H. of Santa Rosa
- Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center
- Faith in Action of Solano County
- Faith in Action: Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Solano County
- Fallbrook Citizens' Crime Prevention Committee
- Fallbrook Child Development Center
- GANAS & TEEN GANAS Mentoring Programs
- Families ACT!
- Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley
- Farms to Grow Inc.
- Feeding His Lambs, Inc
- Fighting Back Partnership
- Filipino American National Historical Society
- Sacramento/Delta Chapter
Progressive Employment Concepts, Inc.
Project High Hopes
Project Inform
Prospera Community Development
Providers' Council Massachusetts
PRT
Randall Museum
RARE Science
Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley
Recovery Café San Jose
Redbud Audubon
Redwood Arts Council
Redwood Bluegrass Associates
Redwood Cove Community Center, Inc.
Redwood Parks Association
Redwood Region Audubon Society
reEvolution Farms
Regional Task Force on the Homeless
Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. (RAMS)
Ride To Walk
Rio Hondo Community Dev. Organization
Ritter Center
Riverside Museum Associates
Rock School Scholarship Fund
Rockwood Leadership Institute
Role Players Ensemble
Rona Barrett Foundation
RootDown LA, A project of Community Partners
Rossi LLP  Certified Public Accountants
Ruwash En Jasmine, Inc.
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
Sacramento Splash
Sacred Fools Theatre Company
San Diego Association of Geologists
San Diego Earth Day
San Diego Electric Railway Association, Inc.
San Diego Guild of Puppetry, Inc.
San Diego Hua Xia Chinese School
San Diego Museum of Man, Mingei International Museum
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory
San Francisco Playhouse
San Francisco SAFE, Inc.
San Francisco SPCA
San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity
San Joaquin River Stewardship Program
San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
San Jose Musical Theater
San Ramon Historic Foundation
Sanchez Art Center
Santa Anita Family Service
Santa Barbara City College Foundation
Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends
Santa Clarita Valley Concert Band
Save Mount Diablo
School of Unity and Liberation
Scleroderma Foundation of Southern California
Scotts Valley Educational Foundation
SCRAP
Sea Save Foundation
Seaology
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties
Serving People in Need (dba SPIN)
SF-Marin Food Bank
Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of CA
Side Street Projects
Sierra Expeditionary Learning School
Sierra HOPE
Sierra Nevada Children's Services
Sierra NonProfit Services
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Sing for America
Slavic Chorale
Social Justice Learning Institute
Social Velocity
Society for Art Publications of the Americas
Solano Symphony Orchestra
Sonoma Ecology Center
Sons of Charity Inc.
SoundVision Productions
South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations
South County Collaborative
South Hayward Parish
Southeast Symphony Association, Inc.
Southern California Center for Nonprofit Management
Spay Neuter Action Project
SPCA for Monterey County
Special Kids Foundation, Inc.
Spirit Awakening Foundation
Spirit House Center for Attitudinal Healing
Spirit of America
St. Helena Montessori School
St. John Boys Home, Inc.
St. Joseph Center
STAND! For Families Free of Violence
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
Stillwater Cat Haven
Stirling City Historical Society
Storyteller Children's Center
Sudara Freedom Fund
Sunny Hills Services
Sunset Hall
Susan G Komen Los Angeles County
Susan G. Komen Orange County
Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
Sustainable Fairfax
Sweetwater Collaborative
Symphony of the Redwoods
Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.
Tastemakers of Change
Teacher Resource Center of the North Bay
Teen Esteem
Temecula Valley Players
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC)
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration
The 15 Association, Inc
The 41B Project
The American Lung Association in California
The Bolsa Chica Land Trust
The Bridge School
The Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County
The Carmel Foundation
The Cedars of Marin
The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy
The Center for Healthy Generations
The Center for the Arts
The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
The Eel River Multigenerational Center
The Foraker Group - Alaska's State Nonprofit Association
The Gamble Institute
The GRYD Foundation
The Haggin Museum
The Humane Society of the United States
The Huntington
The Jonas Project
The Laguna Seca Automotive Museum Foundation
The Learning Oasis
The Multi-Generational Center
The Museum of the City of San Francisco
The Nature Conservancy
The Network of Care
The Nonprofit Association of Oregon
The OMI Cultural Participation Project
The Peninsula College Fund
The PIMCO Foundation
The Place Within Counseling Folsom
The River Otter Ecology Project
The Soldiers Project
The Specialists Guild
The Taylor Family Foundation
The TLC Foundation for Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors
The Trust for Public Land
The Ventura County Arts Council
The Volunteers of The Burbank Animal Shelter
The West Sacramento Historical Society
Theatre Bay Area
Theoretical and Applied Neurocausality Laboratory
Three Rivers Historical Society
Tour-Mate Systems
Training Toward Self Reliance, Inc.
Transformational Living Homes, Inc
Transition House
Traverso Santana Design
Tree Musketeers
Tri-City Hospital Foundation
Tri-Valley Haven
Trinity CHANGE, Inc
Trips for Kids
Triumphant Life
Trust South L.A.
Tulare County Historical Society/Tulare Historical Museum
Tustin Preservation Conservancy
TV Santa Barbara
Uncommon Good
Union Station Homeless Services
United Way of Kern County
United Way of the Wine Country
United Ways of California
University Heights Library Task Force
Ursenke Foundation of California
Utah Nonprofits Association
Valor Residential & Educational Services
VCEB
Via International
Villa Esperanza Services
Visions Unlimited, Inc.
Voices for Progress
Volunteer Council of the East Bay (VCEB)
VolunteerMatch
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch
Warrior Films
Washington Nonprofits
We Are the Next
We Care A Lot Foundation
Weingart Foundation
West Edge Opera
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
West Virginia Nonprofit Association
Whole Systems Learning
Wilcox Foods
Wildling Museum
Wisconsin Nonprofits Association
Woman Within Western USA
Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services (WORKS)
Women's Economic Ventures
Woodland Youth Services
World of Children
Wright's Adolescent Development Center Inc.
WYLD
Wyoming Nonprofit Network
Xelay foundation
Yolo County Historical Society
Young People’s Symphony Orchestra
Young Spirit Foundation
Youth 2 Leaders Education Foundation
Youth Policy Institute
Youth Speaks, Inc.
YWV
Zero Breast Cancer
Zoological Society of San Diego