

702 Capital Ave  
Annex Room 215  
Frankfort, KY 40601

January 23, 2024

Dear Senator Wheeler,

On behalf of the James Graham Brown Foundation, the largest foundation in the state of Kentucky, I **write to express my gratitude for your introduction of Senate Bill 70**. This crucial legislation strengthens the ability of donors to trust that their charitable contributions to endowment funds will be used in accordance with their wishes, ultimately strengthening the philanthropic landscape in our state.

Charitable giving plays a vital role in our Commonwealth, supporting essential services and enriching communities across the state. Kentucky is home to over 23,000 nonprofit organizations, with Kentuckians donating over \$1.8 billion to charities each year. Vulnerable communities rely heavily on charities, which donors generously support.

Donors often give major contributions to endowment funds with intent: a clear purpose and expectation for how their donations will be used. To maintain that trust, it is crucial for state policymakers to provide a legal pathway for the enforcement of written endowment agreements. Protecting donor intent isn't just ethical, it's essential. It fuels the engine of philanthropy, empowering generous givers to see their dreams translated into tangible impact.

SB 70 recognizes the importance of safeguarding donor intent, which is fundamental to building trust and encouraging continued generosity. By ensuring that contributions to endowments are used as specified by the donor, the bill fosters a climate of confidence and transparency that will attract and retain charitable giving.

SB 70 represents a significant step forward in protecting donor intent and strengthening the foundations of Kentucky's vibrant philanthropic community. Thank you again for introducing this important legislation and sending a clear message that Kentucky values and respects the generosity of its citizens.

Please feel free to share this letter with your esteemed colleagues in both the Senate and the House.

Sincerely,



Mason Rummel  
President & CEO  
James Graham Brown Foundation