

## **Coalition Sends Urgent Letter to California Attorney General Rob Bonta Demanding Protection of OpenAI's Charitable Assets**

*New letter outlines steps for Attorney General to preserve OpenAI's charitable assets, enforce board independence, and ensure long-term public benefit*

June 26, 2025

**Sacramento, CA** – Today, EyesOnOpenAI – the coalition of more than 60 philanthropic, labor, and nonprofit organizations who got OpenAI to reverse course on its for-profit conversion — submitted a new letter to California Attorney General Rob Bonta, outlining updated and urgent asks to protect the up to \$300 billion in charitable assets held by OpenAI, Inc that are intended to benefit the public good. The signatories are calling on the Attorney General to continue his ongoing investigation into OpenAI's proposed structure and take decisive action to prevent the unlawful transfer of nonprofit resources for commercial gain.

The new letter urges Attorney General Bonta to (1) continue a robust investigation into OpenAI's governance and compliance with California nonprofit law; (2) require the transfer of nonprofit assets to a fully independent charitable entity committed to advancing the public interest; and (3) ensure true board independence with ongoing state oversight to protect OpenAI's original mission to benefit humanity.

"We commend Attorney General Rob Bonta for his ongoing investigation into OpenAI, which played a key role in their decision to halt their plans to convert into a for-profit entity," said **Fred Blackwell, CEO of the San Francisco Foundation** and a member of the coalition. "However, the lack of transparency in OpenAI's revised plan — especially clear answers on who controls the nonprofit's charitable assets and how they are being used to meet its charitable mission — is very problematic given OpenAI's unresolved conflicts of interest and requires further investigation and action by Attorney General Bonta."

OpenAI was founded in 2015 as a nonprofit with a clear mission to ensure artificial intelligence is "for the benefit of humanity." Despite this mission and its tax-exempt status, OpenAI, Inc.'s charitable assets have been used for commercial purposes, in violation of the exclusive dedication to charitable purposes required by its mission and nonprofit status.

"The importance of this matter to the public cannot be overstated. OpenAI is likely the largest nonprofit in the world, and the technology it is developing will impact every aspect of Californians' lives – from job opportunities to housing and healthcare," said **Catherine Bracy, CEO and co-founder of TechEquity**. "If the charitable laws that govern the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors are not upheld, it will set a dangerous precedent for future nonprofits and their primary duty to serve the public."

The signatories include The California Endowment, The Kapor Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, The California Wellness Foundation, PICO California, LatinoProsperity, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, Economy Security Project, and Tech Equity Collaborative, among many others.

"Our coalition unites diverse Californians across sectors and regions who share one goal: ensuring OpenAI's nonprofit funds serve the public good," said **Orson Aguilar, President and CEO of LatinoProsperity** and a coalition member. "We hope AG Bonta will meet with us to

understand why California communities need OpenAI held accountable to its charitable mission.”

The coalition is also requesting a follow-up meeting with Attorney General Bonta to discuss the urgency of their concerns and to ensure a transparent path forward that honors OpenAI’s founding commitments as a nonprofit dedicated to advancing AI for the benefit of humanity.

Read the full letter and list of signatories [HERE](#).

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