



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

August 15, 2025

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate,
104th General Assembly:

Today, I veto Senate Bill 246 of the 104th General Assembly. The bill is designed to allow the State Treasurer to create a non-profit investment pool and an electronic payment processing program to benefit 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(5) organizations. Non-profit organizations would be able to deposit funds with the Treasurer and potentially benefit from the Treasurer's higher investment returns.

The Treasurer's work to support Illinoisans by addressing the financial needs of Illinois non-profits has always been commendable, and my administration highly values the critical work many non-profit organizations are doing throughout the State. This legislation is well intended to support the financial needs of Illinois non-profits, and it led community banks and credit unions to recognize there was a gap in services they have been offering. Because of the hard work of the Treasurer and advocates, these private financial institutions have created financial products to meet those needs. My administration is eager to assist in that effort.

Though SB 246 is well-intended and might benefit non-profits whose missions advance interests the state desires to promote, it would unfortunately also allow Illinois' financial investments to be used to benefit fringe and extremist groups. I cannot sign a bill that unintentionally allows extremist groups to advance their hateful missions by exploiting state services and resources.

This is not an exercise in hypotheticals — hate groups are growing. Some of their members have been elevated by the Trump White House to positions of power and are no longer on the fringes of American society. They are currently attempting to reshape the legal and ethical boundaries of our country from within the federal government. In Illinois we must remain vigilant. While the federal tax rules were designed to prevent hate groups from qualifying for non-profit status, recent changes in policies, rules, and decision-making at the federal level suggest the trend is to accept extreme views and organizations that promote violence and racial discrimination.

On January 6, 2021, the United States Capitol, the Vice President of the United States, and Members of Congress were attacked by a mob attempting to stop the Congressional certification of the electoral votes of the 2020 presidential election. Among those persons found guilty of criminal acts related to the attack were members of the group known as the Oath Keepers. On

January 20, 2025, several members of the Oath Keepers, who were convicted of offenses related to the January 6, 2021 attack received Presidential pardons of their crimes. Subsequently, I directed our state's hiring agency to consider any participation in the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol to be "infamous and disgraceful conduct" for purposes of the Personnel Code and to recognize such participation as antithetical to the mission of the State to prevent the hiring of these individuals. It was and remains important to ensure that Illinois government does not allow the hate and danger that entered the Capitol that day to infiltrate our state's government and the services we provide.

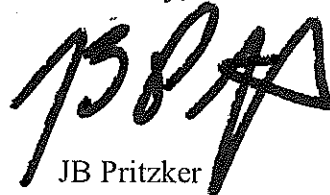
To support its activities, the Oath Keepers formed the Oath Keepers Educational Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. That organization's tax-exempt status has since been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. However, an associated group, the Indiana Oath Keepers, is currently registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service. If Senate Bill 246 were signed into law, the possibility remains that the Indiana Oath Keepers could participate in this state's non-profit investment pool, as the bill does not require that a participating non-profit be located in Illinois in order to participate in the program. Oath Keepers is just one of a number of extremist organizations that could become investors in the state's non-profit investment pool, and our state should not represent or promote the interests of these type of hate groups.

Some have suggested this issue can be resolved through rulemaking, but that would necessitate the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) reviewing administratively proposed rules and voting on whether the standards that have been proposed appropriately limit the charitable organizations that may participate in the Treasurer's investment pool. A government program that includes standards based on an organization's views, activities, founders, or members to exclude non-profits with extreme positions could give rise to legal challenges.

I recognize that many non-profits with beneficial missions are facing real financial hardships, perhaps now more than ever. As noted above, my administration has encouraged community banks to offer various unique financial resources to non-profits. Community banking solutions can help give non-profits greater flexibility, such as interest-free revolving lines of credit. I look forward to continuing to foster relationships between non-profits and community banks, and my team stands ready to support non-profits.

Pursuant to Section 9(b) of Article IV of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 246, entitled "AN ACT concerning State government," with the foregoing objections, vetoed in its entirety.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois