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Statement in response to DOGE attempt to assign a team to the nonprofit Vera Institute

In response to an attempt by DOGE to deploy a team to the Vera Institute, an independent nonprofit, National Council of Nonprofits President and CEO Diane Yentel released the following statement:

"Many nonprofits receive federal funds to deliver vital services to local communities across the country that are often overlooked and underserved by federal and state governments alike. These organizations are entrusted with federal resources to help fill the gaps where government support falls short.

The attempted intrusion by DOGE—a temporary, un-elected and non-Congressionally approved agency—toward the Vera Institute should alarm every American. This action by DOGE sets a dangerous precedent, leaving any recipient of federal funding — nonprofit, for-profit, and individuals alike — vulnerable to the whims of this destructive group. DOGE and The Trump Administration’s professed commitment to free speech and financial efficiency falls flat when their actions selectively target and weaken groups whose missions they may oppose. This isn’t a defense of liberty or fiscal responsibility—it is selective censorship masquerading as reform. These attacks unfairly undermine the hardworking, mission-driven individuals dedicated to

improving the places we call home.

We applaud and stand with the Vera Institute in fighting back against this blatant abuse of power. We urge individuals, nonprofits, and for-profit businesses alike to raise their voices against these authoritarian and bullying tactics."

Communities thrive when nonprofits succeed. For more than 30 years, the National Council of Nonprofits (NCN) has mobilized the largest network of nonprofits in the United States to achieve transformative results. We champion, connect, and inform nonprofits across the country. Join our collective efforts to ensure a connected and powerful nonprofit community equipped to champion the public good.