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To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov

cc:

Subject: Comments on Proposed rules for nonprofits

Commentator:

Zoe Flowers

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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check us out @www.gcadv.org!!!!



- letter to fec.doc

April 7, 2004

Ms. Mai T. Dinh,
Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Ms. Mai T. Dinh:

The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence is strongly opposed to the new rules for nonprofits proposed by the Federal Election Commission. Putting these changes in place in the middle of an election year changes that Congress has rejected and the Supreme Court has upheld- goes beyond existing law and sets a dangerous precedent.

The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide member based nonprofit organization committed to eliminating domestic violence by promoting systems change and supporting intervention programs that serve battered women. The stringent rules proposed by the FEC would severely limit GCADV's ability to advocate effectively on behalf of the women and children across our state. Moreover, enacting four year retroactivity on these rules and requiring groups to raise hard money to repay prior activity could potentially cripple the ability of nonprofits to pursue their mission and is a clear violation of our constitutional rights.

Nonprofits are already regulated by Congress to publicly disclose their finances. We are also prohibited from engaging in political campaigns. The Federal Election Commission has no legal right to restrict our independent activities and freedom of speech.

I hope that you will seriously consider the impact these rules will have on victims of domestic violence and their families. Demanding that non profits be treated as federally regulated political committees is not only a threat to their financial stability, it is a threat to core principles our founding founders implemented at the birth of our great nation.

Sincerely,

Nancy Grigsby
Executive Director

Zoe Flowers
Public Awareness Coordinator