



Dot Bolton <DBolton@alphaonenow.com> on 04/07/2004 12:58:48 PM

To: daniel@ncil.org, politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov  
cc: Dennis Fitzgibbons <DFitzgibbons@alphaonenow.com>

Subject: Comments

Attached are Alpha One's comments regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Political Committee Status.

**Dot Bolton**

[IMAGE]

Alpha One - Executive Administrator

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above. *Powering Independent Living*



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April 7, 2004

Ms Mai T. Dinh  
Acting Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Comments Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Political Committee Status

Dear Ms Dinh:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Federal Election Commission's proposed rule change.

Alpha One is a Center for Independent Living (CIL) working to support people with disabilities to live fully in their communities. As a CIL we are tasked through our Title VII, Part C funding to provide core services to our constituency. One of these core services is advocacy both personal and systems change.

After reviewing this notice of proposed rulemaking, we believe that it will be virtually impossible for CIL's to carry out system's change advocacy on the national level without supporting or opposing the actions that elected officials from both parties undertake, based on the issues critical to independent living and the civil rights of persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, we believe that this proposed rulemaking would negatively impact "Get out the Vote" and voter registration efforts by CIL's attempting to increase the number of people with disabilities who vote due to the expanded definition of what constitutes a political committee. The number of people with disabilities registered to vote is still far behind their peers without disabilities. The issue of political advocacy and people with disabilities is made even more difficult by the alarming number of polling places still inaccessible even after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If non-profits representing people with disabilities are restricted in their attempts to advocate for systems change then people with disabilities will continue to be denied this most fundamental of rights - - the right to vote.

People with disabilities depend upon advocacy at the federal level. We oppose this proposed rulemaking on political committee status.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fitzgibbons  
Chief Operations Officer