



"Margaret V. Chapman" <margaret.chapman7@verizon.net> on 04/06/2004 06:24:01 PM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: Urge Rejection of Rules Affecting Non-profit advocacy

Dear Ms. Dinh,

On behalf of the member organizations and individual members of WV FREE, I urge rejection of the proposed changes to the Federal Election Committee rules for non-profit advocacy. For a list of the nineteen member organizations belonging to WV FREE, please refer to the attached letterhead and physical copy of this correspondence.

Such changes would cripple WV FREE's ability to raise and spend funds and could be so ruinous that we would be forced to back away from the very vital work that we do to promote reproductive health care for the women and girls of West Virginia.

The FEC should not change the rules for nonprofit advocacy in the middle of an election year, especially in ways that Congress already considered and rejected. Implementing these changes now would go far beyond what Congress decided and the Supreme Court upheld.

Further, the FEC should not, in a few weeks, tear up the fabric of tax-exempt law that has existed for decades and under which thousands of nonprofit groups have structured their activities and their governance. The Internal Revenue Code already prohibits 501(c)(3) charities from intervening in political candidate campaigns, and IRS rules for other 501(c) groups prohibit them from ever having a primary purpose to influence any candidate elections -- federal, state, or local.

These changes would impoverish political debate and could act as a de facto "gag rule" on public policy advocacy. They would insulate public officials from substantive input from the public. They would actually diminish civic participation in government rather than strengthen it. This would be exactly the opposite result intended by most supporters of campaign finance reform.

Please, I urge rejection of the proposed changes.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Chapman

Margaret Chapman

Executive Director  
WV FREE Coalition for Reproductive Freedom  
P.O. Box 11042  
Charleston, WV 25339  
Phone and fax: 304-342-9188  
Web address: <http://www.wvfree.org>



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**WV FREE**  
**PO Box 11042**  
**Charleston, WV**  
**25339**  
**304-342-9188**  
[www.wvfree.org](http://www.wvfree.org)

**Margaret Chapman**  
**Executive Director**

*WV FREE's mission is to protect the right to choice, to increase accessibility to affordable birth control and pre-natal care and to improve education on reproductive choices.*

***WV FREE's diverse coalition is comprised of:***

American Association of University Women, WV  
American Civil Liberties Union of WV  
Charleston Chapter of Hadassah  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
League of Women Voters of WV  
Mercer County Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
National Association of Social Workers, WV  
National Council of Jewish Women, WV Section  
National Lawyers' Guild, WV Chapter  
National Organization for Women, Charleston & WV  
Planned Parenthood of WV  
Students for Choice  
Teen Democrats  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Kanawha Valley  
WV Nurses Association  
WV Young Democrats  
Women's Health Center of WV, Inc.

Ms. Mai T. Dinh,  
Acting Assistant General Counsel

April 5, 2004

Dear Ms. Dinh,

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